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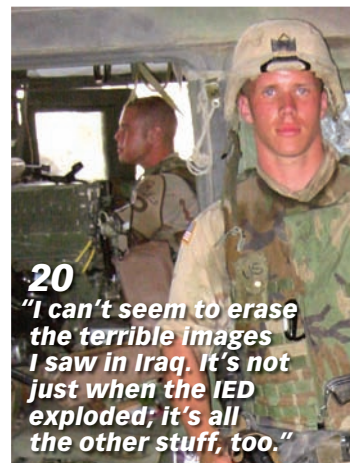
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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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30 **"I think consumers today are interested in more than just great value and price, and they vote with their hard-earned dollars. I think our associates are interested in more than just the paycheck. It's important for people to feel they are part of a corporation that reflects their personal character."**

Courtesy Home Depot

Cover photo: Scott Jolliff

MESOTHELIOMA VICTIMS



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Bud Coady

Harvard, 1979
USMC, 1979-89, 1991
Gulf War Veteran
Attorney at Law



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'For God & Country'

I enjoyed reading the article "For God & Country" (December). It was timely and touching.

Thank you for listing the names of the brave men of God who lost their lives caring for their comrades. I was especially touched to see the name of my friend, Vincent Capodanno, listed with those who have received the Medal of Honor.

I met Father Capodanno when I was a corpsman with the First Marine Division, stationed at First Medical Battalion near Da Nang. Father Capodanno would stop in to visit the wounded at our field hospital and sometimes stay over for a night before returning to his unit. I found him to be a warm, compassionate and caring man. When we heard of his death, we were not in the least surprised to learn he died while caring for others. Thank you, Father Capodanno, and thank you to all the members of the Chaplain Corps for your care and love for your fellow man.

— John J. Berg, Kimball, Neb.

From 1970 to 1972, I worked overseas as an Army chaplain's assistant, also known as a "71-Mike Twenty." "Honored" and "blessed" are the two words that best describe my experience.

— Kenneth C. Ross, Syracuse, Ind.

I take exception to Matt Grills' article on the military chaplaincy, especially so close on the heels of the Air Force Academy's so-called proselytizing scandal. This breed may be "new" but hardly very "brave." Nor do their actions advance God or country.

Of course soldiers become more spiritually oriented in combat. But a wounded trooper is much more likely to worry if he's going to hell than if he's going blind, or whatever. At that point, the role of the chaplain — or any other God-fearing officer — is to bring that man to the Lord.

And if there aren't any Muslims in my battalion, the Army needs to change its policy, not send me some imam. Official setting or not, I'll lead my unit in prayer if I wish. (Stonewall Jackson would have.) Any who don't believe don't have to say "amen."

— James T. Kirmse, Tucson, Ariz.

'Heart of a Patriot'

I'm of Polish descent, and I just want to thank you for the article on Ignace Jan Paderewski (December). Lt. Gen. Edward Rowny expressed his sentiments in such eloquent style.

— Robert E. Brzozowy, New Hartford, Conn.

'In America's Best Interest'

With free trade we ship America's manufacturing jobs and technologies overseas, while outsourcing, legal and illegal immigration, and guest workers take the jobs left here, and all at taxpayer expense. What a bargain! Free trade gave the Viet Cong Russian Ford trucks to use against the United States in Vietnam. Free trade gave China, North Korea and any rogue state with enough money the missile technology that now threatens us.

Free trade is nothing more than extreme greed and a way to avoid workplace safety and environmental laws. I deplore the excesses of these restrictions, but I also remember the dead Lake Erie Love Canal, Times Beach, black lung disease, white lung disease and innumerable other instances of industry's

indifference toward the worker and the environment.

China insists on research and development being a part of factory relocation. How can we ever defend ourselves or our allies if an avowed enemy is our source of manufactured goods and technology? Regardless of what the "experts" say, the trade deficit cannot continue at this rate indefinitely.

— Jay L. Noyes, Lowell, Ind.

Delphi wants to lower the manufacturing wage from \$19 to \$9 an hour. GM and Ford are going to reduce employment and close plants, meaning lower wages for remaining workers. Mexico is closing manufacturing plants and sending its workers to the United States because it can't compete with China. Low-paying service jobs are replacing high-paying manufacturing jobs. Without a level playing field for free trade, with rising interest rates and reduced home-equity loans, with collapsing real-estate values, and with only 40 percent of entering college students graduating, we are looking a depression square in the face.

— Leland Tate, St. George, Utah

When it comes to bad cholesterol— Ask your doctor if lower is better.

Getting high cholesterol down is important.

Doctors know lowering high cholesterol is important for everyone. But for some people, it's even more important. In fact, a panel of medical experts recently proposed updated guidelines suggesting many patients aim for an even lower cholesterol goal than before.*

Working with your doctor is key to helping you reach your cholesterol goal.

If, after all you've tried—including diet and exercise—your doctor believes you need to get your bad cholesterol even lower, ask whether CRESTOR might help.

Aim lower.

CRESTOR may make the difference you need. In fact, the 10-mg dose of CRESTOR, along with diet, can lower bad cholesterol by as much as 52% (vs 7% with placebo). That means your LDL-C—the bad cholesterol—could go down about half. Your results may vary.

Is CRESTOR right for you?

That's another conversation you need to have with your doctor. Your doctor will decide the best course of treatment for you after assessing your particular needs.

Get more information about CRESTOR.

To learn more about CRESTOR, or if you are without prescription coverage and can't afford your medication, AstraZeneca may be able to help. Call 800-CRESTOR or visit CRESTOR.com.

Here is important safety information about CRESTOR you need to know.

CRESTOR is prescribed along with diet for lowering high cholesterol and has not been determined to prevent heart disease, heart attacks, or strokes. CRESTOR is not right for everyone, including women who are nursing, pregnant, or who may become pregnant, or anyone with liver problems. Your doctor will do blood tests before and during treatment with CRESTOR to monitor your liver function. Unexplained muscle pain and weakness could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect and should be reported to your doctor right away. The 40-mg dose of CRESTOR is only for patients who do not reach goal on 20 mg. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are taking any medications. Side effects occur infrequently and include muscle aches, constipation, weakness, abdominal pain, and nausea. They are usually mild and tend to go away.

If your doctor says,
"lower is better," aim lower with CRESTOR.



Please read this summary carefully and then ask your doctor about CRESTOR. No advertisement can provide all the information needed to determine if a drug is right for you. This advertisement does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. Only your doctor has the training to weigh the risks and benefits of a prescription drug.

BRIEF SUMMARY: For full Prescribing Information, see package insert. **INDICATIONS AND USAGE** CRESTOR is indicated: 1. as an adjunct to diet to reduce elevated total-C, LDL-C, ApoB, nonHDL-C, and TG levels and to increase HDL-C in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and nonfamilial) and mixed dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Type IIa and IIb); 2. as an adjunct to diet for the treatment of patients with elevated serum TG levels (Fredrickson Type IV); 3. to reduce LDL-C, total-C, and ApoB in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g., LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable. **CONTRAINDICATIONS** CRESTOR is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to any component of this product. Rosuvastatin is contraindicated in patients with active liver disease or with unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases (see WARNINGS, Liver Enzymes). **Pregnancy and Lactation** Atherosclerosis is a chronic process and discontinuation of lipid-lowering drugs during pregnancy should have little impact on the outcome of long-term therapy of primary hypercholesterolemia. Cholesterol and other products of cholesterol biosynthesis are essential components for fetal development (including synthesis of steroids and cell membranes). Since HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors decrease cholesterol synthesis and possibly the synthesis of other biologically active substances derived from cholesterol, they may cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women. Therefore, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors are contraindicated during pregnancy and in nursing mothers. ROSUVASTATIN SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED TO WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE ONLY WHEN SUCH PATIENTS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO CONCEIVE AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS. If the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, therapy should be discontinued immediately and the patient apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus. **WARNINGS** **Liver Enzymes** HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, like some other lipid-lowering therapies, have been associated with biochemical abnormalities of liver function. The incidence of persistent elevations (>3 times the upper limit of normal [ULN]) occurring on 2 or more consecutive occasions) in serum transaminases in fixed dose studies was 0.4, 0, 0, and 0.1% in patients who received rosuvastatin 5, 10, 20, and 40 mg, respectively. In most cases, the elevations were transient and resolved or improved on continued therapy or after a brief interruption in therapy. There were two cases of jaundice, for which a relationship to rosuvastatin therapy could not be determined, which resolved after discontinuation of therapy. There were no cases of liver failure or irreversible liver disease in these trials. It is recommended that liver function tests be performed before and at 12 weeks following both the initiation of therapy and any elevation of dose, and periodically (e.g., semiannually) thereafter. Liver enzyme changes generally occur in the first 3 months of treatment with rosuvastatin. Patients who develop increased transaminase levels should be monitored until the abnormalities have resolved. Should an increase in ALT or AST of >3 times ULN persist, reduction of dose or withdrawal of rosuvastatin is recommended. Rosuvastatin should be used with caution in patients who consume substantial quantities of alcohol and/or have a history of liver disease (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Hepatic Insufficiency). Active liver disease or unexplained persistent transaminase elevations are contraindications to the use of rosuvastatin (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). **Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis** Rare cases of rhabdomyolysis with acute renal failure secondary to myoglobinuria have been reported with rosuvastatin and with other drugs in this class. Uncomplicated myopathy has been reported in rosuvastatin-treated patients (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). Creatine kinase (CK) elevations >10 times upper limit of normal (normal) occurred in 0.2% to 0.4% of patients taking rosuvastatin at doses up to 40 mg in clinical studies. Treatment-related myopathy, defined as muscle aches or muscle weakness in conjunction with increases in CK values >10 times upper limit of normal, was reported in up to 0.1% of patients taking rosuvastatin doses of up to 40 mg in clinical studies. In clinical trials, the incidence of myopathy and rhabdomyolysis increased at doses of rosuvastatin above the recommended dosage range (5 to 40 mg). In post-marketing experience, effects on skeletal muscle, e.g., uncomplicated myopathy, myopathy and, rarely, rhabdomyolysis have been reported in patients treated with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors including rosuvastatin. As with other HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, reports of rhabdomyolysis with rosuvastatin are rare, but higher at the highest marketed dose (40 mg). Factors that may predispose patients to myopathy with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors include advanced age (>65 years), hypothyroidism, and renal insufficiency. Consequently, 1. Rosuvastatin should be prescribed with caution in patients with predisposing factors for myopathy, such as, renal impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION), advanced age, and inadequately treated hypothyroidism. 2. Patients should be advised to promptly report unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly if accompanied by malaise or fever. Rosuvastatin therapy should be discontinued if markedly elevated CK levels occur or myopathy is diagnosed or suspected. 3. The 40 mg dose of rosuvastatin is reserved only for those patients who have not achieved their LDL-C goal utilizing the 20 mg dose of rosuvastatin once daily (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). 4. The risk of myopathy during treatment with rosuvastatin may be increased with concurrent administration of other lipid-lowering therapies or cyclosporine, (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Drug Interactions, PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). The benefit of further alterations in lipid levels by the combined use of rosuvastatin with fibrates or niacin should be carefully weighed against the potential risks of this combination. Combination therapy with rosuvastatin and gemfibrozil should generally be avoided. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). 5. The risk of myopathy during treatment with rosuvastatin may be increased in circumstances which increase rosuvastatin drug levels (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Race and Renal Insufficiency, and PRECAUTIONS, General). 6. Rosuvastatin therapy should also be temporarily withheld in any patient with an acute, serious condition suggestive of myopathy or predisposing to the development of renal failure secondary to rhabdomyolysis (e.g., sepsis, hypotension, dehydration, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine, and electrolyte disorders, or uncontrolled seizures). **PRECAUTIONS** **General** Before instituting therapy with rosuvastatin, an attempt should be made to control hypercholesterolemia with appropriate diet and exercise, weight reduction in obese patients, and treatment of underlying medical problems (see INDICATIONS AND USAGE). Administration of rosuvastatin 20 mg to patients with severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} <30 mL/min/1.73 m²) resulted in a 3-fold increase in plasma concentrations of rosuvastatin compared with healthy volunteers (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). The result of a large pharmacokinetic study conducted in the US demonstrated an approximate 2-fold elevation in median exposure in Asian subjects (having either Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese or Asian-Indian origin) compared with a Caucasian control group. This increase should be considered when making rosuvastatin dosing decisions for Asian patients. (See WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis; CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Race, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). **Information for Patients** Patients should be advised to report promptly unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly if accompanied by malaise or fever. When taking rosuvastatin with an aluminum and magnesium hydroxide combination antacid, the antacid should be taken at least 2 hours after rosuvastatin administration (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Drug Interactions). **Laboratory Tests** In the rosuvastatin clinical trial program, dipstick-positive proteinuria and microscopic hematuria were observed among rosuvastatin-treated patients, predominantly in patients dosed above the recommended dose range (i.e., 80 mg). However, this finding was more frequent in patients taking rosuvastatin 40 mg, when compared to lower doses of rosuvastatin or comparator studies, though it was generally transient and was not associated with worsening renal function. Although the clinical significance of this finding is unknown, a dose reduction should be considered for patients on rosuvastatin 40 mg therapy with unexplained persistent proteinuria during routine urinalysis testing. **Drug Interactions** **Cyclosporine:** When rosuvastatin 10 mg was coadministered with cyclosporine in cardiac transplant patients, rosuvastatin mean C_{max} and mean AUC were increased 11-fold and 7-fold, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. These increases are considered to be clinically significant and require special consideration in the dosing of rosuvastatin to patients taking

concomitant cyclosporine (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). **Warfarin:** Coadministration of rosuvastatin to patients on stable warfarin therapy resulted in clinically significant rises in INR (>4, baseline 2-3). In patients taking coumarin anticoagulants and rosuvastatin concomitantly, INR should be determined before starting rosuvastatin and frequently enough during early therapy to ensure that no significant alteration of INR occurs. Once a stable INR has been documented, INR can be monitored at the intervals usually recommended for patients on coumarin anticoagulants. If the dose of rosuvastatin is changed, the same procedure should be repeated. Rosuvastatin therapy has not been associated with bleeding or with changes in INR in patients not taking anticoagulants. **Gemfibrozil:** Coadministration of a single rosuvastatin dose to healthy volunteers on gemfibrozil (600 mg twice daily) resulted in a 2.2- and 1.9-fold, respectively, increase in mean C_{max} and mean AUC of rosuvastatin (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). **Endocrine Function** Although clinical studies have shown that rosuvastatin alone does not reduce basal plasma cortisol concentration or impair adrenal reserve, caution should be exercised if any HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or other agent used to lower cholesterol levels is administered concomitantly with drugs that may decrease the levels or activity of endogenous steroid hormones such as ketconazole, spironolactone, and cimetidine. **CNS Toxicity** CNS vascular lesions, characterized by perivascular hemorrhages, edema, and mononuclear cell infiltration of perivascular spaces, have been observed in dogs treated with several other members of this drug class. A chemically similar drug in this class produced dose-dependent optic nerve degeneration (Wallenian degeneration of retinogeniculate fibers) in dogs, at a dose that produced plasma drug levels about 30 times higher than the mean drug level in humans taking the highest recommended dose. Edema, hemorrhage, and partial necrosis in the interstitium of the choroid plexus was observed in a female dog sacrificed moribund at day 24 at 90 mg/kg/day by oral gavage (systemic exposures 100 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons). Corneal opacity was seen in dogs treated for 52 weeks at 6 mg/kg/day by oral gavage (systemic exposures 20 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons). Cataracts were seen in dogs treated for 12 weeks by oral gavage at 30 mg/kg/day (systemic exposures 60 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons). Retinal dysplasia and retinal loss were seen in dogs treated for 4 weeks by oral gavage at 90 mg/kg/day (systemic exposures 100 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC). Doses <30 mg/kg/day (systemic exposures <60 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons) following treatment up to one year, did not reveal retinal findings. **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility** In a 104-week carcinogenicity study in rats at dose levels of 2, 20, 60, or 80 mg/kg/day by oral gavage, the incidence of uterine stromal polyps was significantly increased in females at 80 mg/kg/day at

Adverse Experiences Adverse experiences, regardless of causality assessment, reported in ≥2% of patients in placebo-controlled clinical studies of rosuvastatin are shown in Table 1; discontinuations due to adverse events in these studies of up to 12 weeks duration occurred in 3% of patients on rosuvastatin and 5% on placebo.

Table 1. Adverse Events in Placebo-Controlled Studies

Adverse event	Rosuvastatin N=744	Placebo N=382
Pharyngitis	9.0	7.6
Headache	5.5	5.0
Diarrhea	3.4	2.9
Dyspepsia	3.4	3.1
Nausea	3.4	3.1
Myalgia	2.8	1.3
Asthenia	2.7	2.6
Back pain	2.6	2.4
Flu syndrome	2.3	1.8
Urinary tract infection	2.3	1.6
Rhinitis	2.2	2.1
Sinusitis	2.0	1.8

In addition, the following adverse events were reported, regardless of causality assessment, in ≥1% of 10,275 patients treated with rosuvastatin in clinical studies. The events in *italics* occurred in ≥2% of these patients. **Body as a Whole:** *Abdominal pain, accidental injury, chest pain, infection, pain, pelvic pain, and neck pain.* **Cardiovascular System:** *Hypertension, angina pectoris, vasodilatation, and palpitation.* **Digestive System:** *Constipation, gastroenteritis, vomiting, flatulence, periodontal abscess, and gastritis.* **Endocrine:** *Diabetes mellitus.* **Hemic and Lymphatic System:** *Anemia and ecchymosis.* **Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders:** *Peripheral edema.* **Musculoskeletal System:** *Arthritis, arthralgia, and pathological fracture.* **Nervous System:** *Dizziness, insomnia, hypertension, paraesthesia, depression, anxiety, vertigo, and neuralgia.* **Respiratory System:** *Bronchitis, cough increased, dyspnea, pneumonia, and asthma.* **Skin and Appendages:** *Rash and pruritus.* **Laboratory Abnormalities:** In the rosuvastatin clinical trial program, dipstick-positive proteinuria and microscopic hematuria were observed among rosuvastatin-treated patients, predominantly in patients dosed above the recommended dose range (i.e., 80 mg). However, this finding was more frequent in patients taking rosuvastatin 40 mg, when compared to lower doses of rosuvastatin or comparator studies, though it was generally transient and was not associated with worsening renal function. (See PRECAUTIONS, Laboratory Tests.) Other abnormal laboratory values reported were elevated creatinine phosphokinase, transaminases, hyperglycemia, glutamyl transpeptidase, alkaline phosphatase, bilirubin, and thyroid function abnormalities. Other adverse events reported less frequently than 1% in the rosuvastatin clinical study program, regardless of causality assessment, included arrhythmia, hepatitis, hyper-sensitivity reactions (i.e., face edema, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, vesiculobullous rash, urticaria, and angioedema), kidney failure, syncope, myasthenia, myositis, pancreatitis, photosensitivity reaction, myopathy, and rhabdomyolysis. **Postmarketing Experience** In addition to the events reported above, as with other drugs in this class, the following event has been reported during post-marketing experience with CRESTOR, regardless of causality assessment: very rare cases of jaundice. **OVERDOSAGE** There is no specific treatment in the event of overdose. In the event of overdose, the patient should be treated symptomatically and supportive measures instituted as required. Hemodialysis does not significantly enhance clearance of rosuvastatin. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** The patient should be placed on a standard cholesterol-lowering diet before receiving CRESTOR and should continue on this diet during treatment. CRESTOR can be administered as a single dose at any time of day, with or without food. **Hypercholesterolemia (Heterozygous Familial and Nonfamilial) and Mixed Dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Type IIa and IIb)** The dose range for CRESTOR is 5 to 40 mg once daily. Therapy with CRESTOR should be individualized according to goal of therapy and response. The usual recommended starting dose of CRESTOR is 10 mg once daily. However, initiation of therapy with 5 mg once daily should be considered for patients requiring less aggressive LDL-C reductions, who have predisposing factors for myopathy, and as noted below for special populations such as patients taking cyclosporine, Asian patients, and patients with severe renal insufficiency (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Race, and Renal Insufficiency, and Drug Interactions). For patients with marked hypercholesterolemia (LDL-C >190 mg/dL) and aggressive lipid targets, a 20-mg starting dose may be considered. After initiation and/or upon titration of CRESTOR, lipid levels should be analyzed within 2 to 4 weeks and dosage adjusted accordingly. The 40-mg dose of CRESTOR is reserved only for those patients who have not achieved their LDL-C goal utilizing the 20 mg dose of CRESTOR once daily (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis). When initiating statin therapy or switching from another statin therapy, the appropriate CRESTOR starting dose should first be utilized, and only then titrated according to the patient's individualized goal of therapy. **Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia** The recommended starting dose of CRESTOR is 20 mg once daily in patients with homozygous FH. The maximum recommended daily dose is 40 mg. CRESTOR should be used in these patients as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g., LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable. Response to therapy should be estimated from pre-apheresis LDL-C levels. **Dosage in Asian Patients** Initiation of CRESTOR therapy with 5 mg once daily should be considered for Asian patients. The potential for increased systemic exposures relative to Caucasians is relevant when considering escalation of dose in cases where hypercholesterolemia is not adequately controlled at doses of 5, 10, or 20 mg once daily. (See WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis; CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Race, and PRECAUTIONS, General). **Dosage in Patients Taking Cyclosporine** In patients taking cyclosporine, therapy should be limited to CRESTOR 5 mg once daily (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis, and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). **Concomitant Lipid-Lowering Therapy** The effect of CRESTOR on LDL-C and total-C may be enhanced when used in combination with a bile acid binding resin. If CRESTOR is used in combination with gemfibrozil, the dose of CRESTOR should be limited to 10 mg once daily (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis, and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). **Dosage in Patients With Renal Insufficiency** No modification of dosage is necessary for patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency. For patients with severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} <30 mL/min/1.73 m²) not on hemodialysis, dosing of CRESTOR should be started at 5 mg once daily and not to exceed 10 mg once daily (see PRECAUTIONS, General, and CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Renal Insufficiency).

NOTE: This summary provides important information about CRESTOR. For more information, please ask your doctor or health care professional about the full Prescribing Information and discuss it with them.

Rx only

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I am not sure there is such a thing as free trade. I say this after having looked at the 1,000-plus pages of the CAFTA document, full of stifling rules and regulations that aren't free at all. It looks more like a disguised foreign-aid program. I clearly remember people saying that NAFTA would bring so much prosperity to Mexico that illegal immigration would no longer exist. That clearly is not the case today. As our borders erode and jobs go away, the last thing we need is more pacts like CAFTA and the FTAA. As veterans, we should all be concerned that by entering into these agreements we are turning over our sovereignty to foreign bodies, all contrary to the Constitution we swore to defend. Maybe it's just me, but this is exactly how I watched the European Union evolve into what it is today.

— William Rouse, Indianapolis

Up to the task

I read "Highly Qualified Military Retirees Deemed Too Old For Federal Jobs" (December) with great interest. I too retired from the Marine Corps after 20 years of service. Two DoD facilities near me had a large exodus of firefighters over the past two years. I met all the prerequisites for the position, with a few additional qualifications and seven years of experience. But because I am older than 37, my application went nowhere. I was in the best shape of my life and felt confident I could easily handle the duties and physical agility test. I even paid a personal visit to the fire chief, hoping he would see I was up to the task, all to no avail.

The maximum-age provision for law enforcement and firefighting employment should be changed. I believe anyone capable of performing the duties should be considered. Otherwise, anyone older than 37 should have to move out of law enforcement and firefighting. Either you're physically capable of doing the job or you aren't.

— Chuck Meachum, Lewisburg, Pa.

'A Pearl Harbor Hero'

In your December issue you depict the Army Medal of Honor in an article about Navy man Doris Miller. Certainly anyone in The American Legion knows there are three Medal of Honor decorations: Army, Navy and Marines, and Air Force.

— Edward A. Bicknell,
South Portland, Maine

A grateful nation

I could not agree more with National Commander Tom Bock ("Troops At War Must Feel Our Support," December). Our country has many freedoms, and with freedom comes responsibility. It is sad that our own free press does not subscribe to that truth. While criticizing President Bush for doing it in Iraq, the national media have taken it upon themselves to effect a "regime change" in America. They fabricate stories, exaggerate minor events and otherwise mislead the public with an unrelenting agenda to turn us against the president and discredit the administration. They have tried to make Saddam a victim, bin Laden a martyr and terrorists nothing more than defenders of their way of life. To them, our troops are the presi-

dent's sacrificial lambs, not patriots or heroes.

Americans need to know the accomplishments gained by our sacrifices in this Middle East war. Veterans must tell the media we honor and appreciate those sacrifices – and let the troops know they are liberators, not occupiers. Speak loud and often – not for the enemy to hear, but for our own people.

— Richard D. Carmack,
Gulf Shores, Ala.

'The Threat of Weakness'

I am appalled that you allowed Stephen Krasner of the State Department to present his radical views without some form of rebuttal or counterpoint (December). His combination of fear-mongering, interference in other nations' politics under the guise of nation-building and outright ignorance of world politics reflect everything that is wrong with President Bush's foreign policy.

Krasner gives an example of Afghanistan under the Taliban as a weak and failing state. Is he unaware that Afghanistan drove out the Soviet army and shut down the opium business? That doesn't sound weak to me. Now, opium constitutes 80 percent of Afghanistan's GDP, and the central government controls only parts of Kabul.

One of the biggest failings of the current administration is our loss of respect throughout the world. Bush still has three years to clean house and bring into his administration qualified professionals and experts rather than the loyalists who have performed so dismally.

— Cliff Rierson, Austin, Texas

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 • magazine@legion.org

Unity is the strength behind diversity

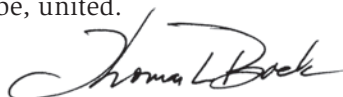
One of the oldest American Legion posts in the United States can be found along South State Street, Chicago, in a red-painted building next to a gravel parking lot. Inside, history hangs in the air. Framed photos of past commanders and adjutants, time-honored veterans, all black, line the rooms. Members gather daily and speak reverently of their post's place in history, as the eyes of their forebears permanently gaze back at them.

George L. Giles Post No. 87 traces its origins to 1919, the year of the Legion's birth, a time when victorious young veterans of the Great War were coming home to restart their lives, unsure of the future. Many years would pass before Post 87 had a building to call its own, but that didn't matter. Members gathered in living rooms and at kitchen tables; they went door to door, sharing information among deserving veterans, many of them damaged from the war and unaware they were entitled to federal benefits. The post offered more than that; it offered camaraderie based purely on honorable service to our country, a shared experience. A drum and bugle corps, social events, poppy sales, Memorial Day parades and a post home soon followed. Like thousands of other Legion posts popping up across America at the time, its veterans were united.

Diversity thrives where there is unity. The Legion admitted women into its ranks before women had the right to vote for president. The Legion admitted blacks long before blacks had the same civil rights as whites. The Legion was, at the very least, in line with the military and often ahead of it in the fair and equal treatment of our fellow veterans. Black, white, Asian, Navajo, Comanche, Christian, Jew or Muslim – once you laced up combat boots and marched under the banner to which you had sworn your life, you were part of the unity. A veteran is a veteran.

That is why all of us – from those who belly-crawled through bloody firefights to those who ordered supplies at a state-side base – cannot accept budget-driven politics that aims to divide veterans. Disabled military retirees, unless their service fits a particular type of combat duty, are to this day denied full retirement pay if they are also compensated for service-connected disabilities. That's wrong. The federal government divides veterans into eight priority groups for health care, the eighth of which was less than three months old when it was quietly cut off, defying the spirit, if not the letter, of a law passed in broad daylight by Congress in 1996. Categorization creates divisiveness, even prejudice. We have heard that Priority Group 7 veterans are next in line to have access to VA health care denied. They persist in their talk of new enrollment fees and doubling co-payments and different treatment for different veterans, based on economics or other distinctions. They try to dilute our unity, as a way to reduce the cost of past promises.

Following World War I, the U.S. government did not go door to door explaining benefits to young veterans, black or white. The American Legion did. In the years ahead, the federal government will not go door to door explaining benefits and opportunities to veterans home from Iraq. But the Legion will. We do it in every state every day, regardless of ethnicity, faith, gender, disability status or tax bracket. That is why The American Legion is rich in diversity and has been since 1919. It is because we are, and must forever be, united.



National Commander
Thomas L. Bock

MEMORANDA

SEEK SENATE FLAG SUPPORT:

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote on S.J. Res. 12 – an amendment to return to Congress the right to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration – in the coming months. We have never been closer to achieving the necessary supermajority on the measure, which reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Legionnaires are urged to contact their senators and thank them if they are supporters, convince them if they are undecided and demand an explanation from those who oppose flag protection.

www.cfa-inc.org

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE:

Legionnaires from across America will converge at our nation's capital Feb. 26 to March 1 for the annual Washington Conference. Among the scheduled speakers are Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, recipient of this year's National Commander's Distinguished Public Service Award, and William J. Haynes II, general counsel for the Department of Defense.

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1941 Chevrolet Flatbed Truck

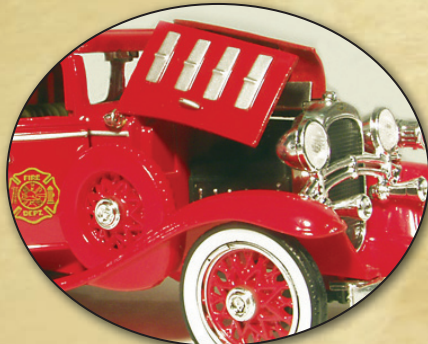


8¼" Long—1:32 Scale

1932 Fire Chief Confederate Series



5¼" Long—1:32 Scale



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Reduce funding for United Nations



SUPPORT

Rep. Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill.

■ Hyde is chairman of the House International Relations Committee.



OPPOSE

Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif.

■ Lantos is the ranking member on the House International Relations Committee.

The United Nations is in desperate need of reform. No observer – be they passionate supporter of the United Nations Reform Act of 2005 or dismissive critic – can pretend that the current structure and operations of the United Nations represent an acceptable standard. Very few are opposed to the organization's role in facilitating diplomacy, mediating disputes, monitoring the peace and feeding the hungry. But we are opposed to bureaucratization, to political grandstanding, to billions of dollars spent on programs with meager results, to the outright misappropriation of funds. And we rightly bristle at the gratuitous anti-Americanism that has become ingrained over decades, even as our checks continue to be regularly cashed.

In the United States, recognition of the need for change is widely shared and bipartisan.

Even opponents of the United Nations Reform Act of 2005, approved by the House of Representatives in June, concede the need for change. The key difference between their proposals and our measure lies in the methods. This legislation brings to bear instruments of leverage sufficient to the task, the most important of which is tying the U.S. financial contribution to readily understandable benchmark reforms.

We can either seek to accomplish concrete improvements, requiring an enforcement mechanism, or we can pretend to do so. Any proposal resting upon discretionary decisions concedes in advance that reform will be fragmentary at best.

We are in a peculiar situation. Opponents of change cloak themselves as defenders of the United Nations, when it is, in fact, they who would condemn it to irrelevance. Those who believe the United Nations can yet reclaim its mission have no choice but reform.

While there is no disagreement between Chairman Hyde and me as to whether the United Nations must be reformed, we part ways on how best to accomplish this important goal.

This global institution must become more transparent and open, its employees must be held to the highest ethical and moral standards, and the abuses of the Oil-for-Food program must never be repeated.

But the United Nations Reform Act, while emotion-

ally satisfying for those who reflexively criticize the United Nations, is truly a guillotine on autopilot. If the United Nations accomplishes all but one of its more than 40 required reforms, but only one-half of the last one, the United States will automatically cut our U.N. contribution in half. President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will have absolutely no choice in the matter.

The legislation is also a death blow to U.N. peacekeeping. Immediately upon enactment of this legislation, the United States will be forced to oppose any new or expanded peacekeeping mission until a comprehensive series of peacekeeping reforms is implemented. Many will take years to accomplish. Rwanda-style genocides could unfold before our eyes, and the United Nations would have to turn its back.

While the U.N. reform bill has the best intentions, it will not achieve the desired outcomes. Given the important role the United Nations is currently playing in Afghanistan, Iraq, Darfur and scores of other places, I fail to see how going into arrears at the United Nations will promote America's national security interests or our influence with other members of the organization. It will only force the United States to take on greater global responsibilities at a moment when our troops and our diplomats are already spread thin.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Backers of the U.N. Reform Act say needed changes at the world body will only come about by threatening to cut off funds. Opponents say negotiation is a better choice.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

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Going Up

Analysts take sides on America's gas-price roller-coaster ride.

or Going Down?



Sara Banaszak



Tyson Slocum

Even before last year's brutal hurricane season, Americans were paying high amounts at the pump. Then Katrina hit, and prices spiked to over \$3 a gallon. So it came as no surprise when oil companies announced record profits for the third quarter of 2005. Exxon Mobil: \$9.92 billion. Shell: \$9.03 billion. BP announced its profits were up 34 percent over the previous year, and ConocoPhillips saw revenues jump 43 percent.

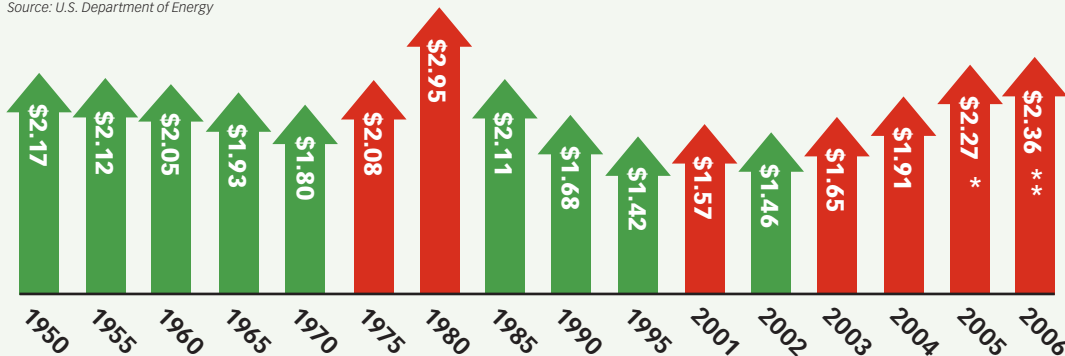
As lawmakers demanded answers, even floating the idea of a windfall-profits tax, oil executives defended their earnings before Congress by saying industry profits as a percent of revenue are in line with other industries. Oil companies use these earnings to invest in new sources of oil, they added.

Sara Banaszak is a senior economist at the American Petroleum Institute, which represents the oil and gas industry. She says current pump prices are set by both supply and demand, and simply reflect the market. Tyson Slocum, director of Public Citizen's energy program, disagrees. He believes the industry has exploited the situation, intentionally tightening its refining capacity to control supply and make bigger bucks.

The American Legion Magazine recently interviewed both experts separately.

Retail gasoline prices (adjusted for inflation)

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



* estimate, ** forecast

Images courtesy Ford Motor Co.

Q: *Why did gas prices skyrocket last year, and why have they become so volatile?*

Sara Banaszak: The main reason gas prices reached the height they did is really due to the two major hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast in August and September. But we were in a very tight market even before the hurricanes, seeing upward movement of gasoline prices. The biggest driver in the price of gasoline is the price of crude oil. About 55 percent of what a consumer pays for gasoline is just to cover the purchase of the crude oil. Almost 50 cents on the gallon are the taxes being paid. And then that middle portion is what is left to take the crude, turn it into gasoline, transport it to the consumer and market it to the consumer.

The Department of Energy's short-term forecast basically calls for a slight moderation from where prices are now but still sustained at a fairly high level through the winter. At the worst point of the hurricane damage we had almost 30 percent of our refining capacity either completely shut down or operating at reduced capacity. As that comes back online, it's putting downward pressure on gasoline prices.

Tyson Slocum: First of all, there is no question the high prices have something to do with supply and demand. Americans are using record amounts of gas and oil; we use, by far, the most gas and oil of any other country in the world. Every day, we use 25 percent of the world's oil even though we only have about 4.5 percent of the world's population. So anytime you've got tight supply and demand you're going to have an easier situation for energy companies to exploit that situation, and that's exactly what we're seeing today. In March 2001, the Federal Trade Commission did an investigation of high prices in the Midwest and found conclusive evidence that oil companies were intentionally withholding supplies in order to drive prices up. And they're going to continue going up. As long as our White House and our Congress refuse to address the fundamentals, the sky's the limit for prices.

The United States is already the third-largest crude oil-producing nation in the world. Only Saudi Arabia and Russia produce more oil every day than we do. Even if we doubled our production to match that of Saudi Arabia, we'd still be forced to import half of our oil.

We are never, ever going to solve this crisis by trying to produce more oil. The only way to address it is to take steps to reduce our consumption. You do that by making our consumption more efficient. There are things Congress can do: enact tougher fuel-economy standards, offer more incentives for hybrids and give consumers more options to use more fuel-efficient automobiles. Second, we need to hold the oil companies accountable. They're enjoying record profits, and that's a direct connection to the record-high prices we're paying.

Q: *Who deserves blame for the high prices?*

SB: It's a natural response to want to blame somebody because prices are high and they're very difficult on pocketbooks, but who do we blame when there's a freeze in Florida and the price of orange juice goes up? Markets have worked very effectively for consumers, and these hurricanes are a great testimony to that. Prices went up very high, but it's because we had tremendous damage from the hurricanes. What we saw is that as the facilities are restored, the prices are coming back down. That's the mechanism you'd expect with the market. The other thing is that prices are set by both supply and demand. Any industry is only trying to supply something that somebody's trying to use.

The industry is concerned that we've under-invested in infrastructure and the ability to supply fuel into the country because we rejected so many of the options that would enable the supply to build. That's also one factor to the tight market. For instance, natural gas this winter could actually be a bigger problem than gasoline, because unlike gasoline, where it's easier to respond to a domestic problem with the international market, we haven't been able yet to build the infrastructure to import more natural gas from the international market. In fact, there's so much natural gas that's been set off limits

High global gas prices*

\$6.48 Amsterdam, Netherlands
\$6.27 Oslo, Norway
\$5.96 Milan, Italy
\$5.93 Copenhagen, Denmark
\$5.91 Brussels, Belgium

Low global gas prices*

\$0.91 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
\$0.78 Kuwait City, Kuwait
\$0.65 Cairo, Egypt
\$0.38 Lagos, Nigeria
\$0.12 Caracas, Venezuela

* March 2005
Source: CNN Money

Over a barrel

The United States consumed an average of 20 million barrels of oil per day in 2004, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Of that, 45 percent was used for motor gasoline. The rest was used for distillate fuel oil, jet fuel, residual fuel and other oils. In the United States, approximately 178 million gallons of gasoline are consumed every day.

Source:
Money.howstuffworks.com

to the industry in terms of development, so these are the kinds of things the industry would like to suggest as ways that could help keep the domestic market better supplied.

TS: I think we need to be honest here. Oil companies are enjoying record profits at a time when Americans are paying record high prices, and we have a federal government that has seen fit to provide those profiteering oil companies with even bigger profits, giving them more tax breaks, and that just makes no fiscal-policy sense. It makes no energy-policy sense. Second, we do need to point the finger at ourselves. As long as we continue to buy extremely fuel-inefficient automobiles, as long as we continue to use oil and gas at a rate that far exceeds our competitors in Europe and Asia, we're going to continue paying high prices. It's one thing for the president to come out and say we need to be better conservers of energy. It's another thing to say, "I'm going to help you become better conservers of energy

by giving Americans more money to help them buy a new hybrid vehicle, to give them money to weatherize their homes so their windows won't let heat escape and they've got better insulation so the heat they use is used more efficiently." The president hasn't done that. All he's done is given us a lecture about how we need to be better conservers of energy because all the money he's decided to give for these things has been to oil companies.

Q: *What are the short-term and long-term effects on the U.S. economy?*

SB: Long before the hurricanes, Alan Greenspan testified to Congress that rising energy prices were probably having an effect on economic growth. Then he estimated about a quarter of a percent or somewhere around half a percent. With the hurricanes and the price spikes that were hurricane-related, we can expect that impact to be greater, and the Congressional Budget Office did some analysis on what the impacts were. The forecast, even

considering the effect of high energy prices on other kinds of consumption, was that the worst impact was really going to be felt in the second half of 2005, and that this year at least the hurricane-related impacts will be offset by positive economic activity that will occur in terms of rebuilding. So they didn't see a negative impact in 2006 or 2007.

TS: Right now the economy is absolutely being hurt. It's affecting job creation. It's adding to inflationary pressures. It's raising prices across the board. People are hit by high energy prices two ways. The first way is directly, when you go to the gas station to fill up your car and when you open up your utility bill for home heating this winter. The indirect cost is that rising energy costs increase the costs of goods and services. For example, Wal-Mart has already been talking about how it needs to increase prices to make up for the added costs of high energy prices on its bottom line, so consumers are going to pay for it there as well.

Q: *Everybody thinks the industry is raking in big bucks. True or false?*

SB: Not true relative to other industries. When you look at the earnings of the oil and gas industry compared to other industries, they're really right on average. In the second quarter of 2005, if you look across all industries – everything from banking to media to pharmaceuticals – the average was 7.9 percent, so 7.9 cents on the dollar. The oil and natural gas industry was 7.7 cents. That trend holds true over the longer picture. Looking back over the past five years, the average was 5.4 percent for all industries. Oil and gas was just slightly higher, 5.6 percent. What confuses people is that many oil and gas companies are very large. They don't just sell it in the United States; they're selling all over the world. If you look at how much they're earning, their profit, that number tends to be very large. But if you look at how much they're selling and compare the two, they're right on average.

TS: The largest five oil refiners in the United States, since 2001, have had profits of \$258 billion. That's through the third quarter of 2005. Compared to other industries, the oil industry is doing very, very well. In 2004, Exxon Mobil's global operations had a 23.6-percent rate of return. But its U.S. oil refining had a 28.6-percent rate of return. That tells

me its biggest profit margins are coming from Americans. So if we think that a 30-percent profit margin on U.S. drilling is OK with Americans at a time when they're paying record high prices, well, then, I guess we have no complaint with Exxon Mobil.

Q: *Are gas prices really that high when inflation is taken into account?*

SB: If you adjust for inflation, they never got as high as what we paid in 1981 for gasoline. The same with crude oil. In fact, if you adjust for inflation, our prices were going steadily down, so we were actually paying much less for fuel than we had been in the '80s. We think prices are high, but they're not really that high. In the last couple of years they started rising, but for all of the '80s and most of the '90s our gasoline prices were falling while gasoline was getting cleaner and cleaner. We've taken more and more sulfur out of the fuel that we're selling and made the specifications for the fuel tighter and tighter.

TS: When you look at what happened in the 1970s, I think that we just got very close to breaking the inflation-adjusted record, but everything is relative. I mean, obviously the 1970s was a horrendous economic era. You had annual inflation at 20 to 25 percent. You had huge jobless numbers. Is it as bad as it was then today? No, it isn't. Does that mean we should be breathing a sign of relief? No, because it is clear, and it is documented, that high prices today are having a huge negative impact on Americans, especially those on fixed incomes. They are going to suffer the most, especially when you take into account heating bills and the cost to fill up their cars with gas.

Q: *Are alternative fuels viable? If so, which ones hold the most promise?*

SB: We should be seriously looking at alternatives, and we are. Most of the oil we use in this country is for transportation, so our movement toward hybrid vehicles is exactly the kind of response that brings us into a more alternative arena that goes directly at our biggest area of energy consumption. The development of alternatively fueled vehicles, like a hydrogen vehicle, will be of tremendous importance. It's impossible to say which technology we should develop. You never know where

the breakthrough is going to be; otherwise, we'd be going in that direction already. I think the markets will decide which of the alternative technologies is the most competitive.

TS: Yeah, there's alternative fuels – things like ethanol and biodiesel. You have hybrid cars, which use electric power actually generated from the operation of the vehicle itself. When you break the car, it actually captures the energy of that and recharges the battery. You have alternative fuels like hydrogen, which you have to create. But once you create it, it is a zero-emission fuel. The only waste product when you burn hydrogen is water. So there are alternatives, but we need to invest heavily in them. Right now the private marketplace isn't doing a lot of that because it's a long-term investment, and the private marketplace is interested in short-term profitability. They're going to stick with what we already have. It is the government's job not to subsidize mature industries like oil companies but to instead provide investments in these immature new technologies that will transition away from fossil fuels.

Q: *What would stability in a free Iraq mean to the future of the industry?*

SB: Iraq has the capability to produce a lot more oil than it is. It would not be the No. 1 oil producer. But it's an important area of crude production. It would help the markets. It's hard to say who would have the opportunity to invest in further development in Iraq, but it would certainly bring more supply into the market if the country were stable and developing its resources.

TS: You can argue that Iran is a stable country, but we don't get any oil from Iran because of political differences. We have to assume we have a democracy in Iraq that is supportive of the United States, and assuming that, I don't think it will make that big of a difference. There is no shortage of crude oil today. The problems are in the U.S. marketplace, and I think a lot of that has to do with all the mergers we've allowed. 🌿

What you pay for in a gallon of regular gasoline

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(November 2005)

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Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Nuclear Wasteland

BY SEN. JOHN ENSIGN

For more than 20 years, the United States has pursued a policy of burying an incredibly valuable resource in an unstable mountain riddled with structural, scientific and financial problems. We arrived at this point through pure politics and misguided so-called science, but we do still have real, sensible and viable options.

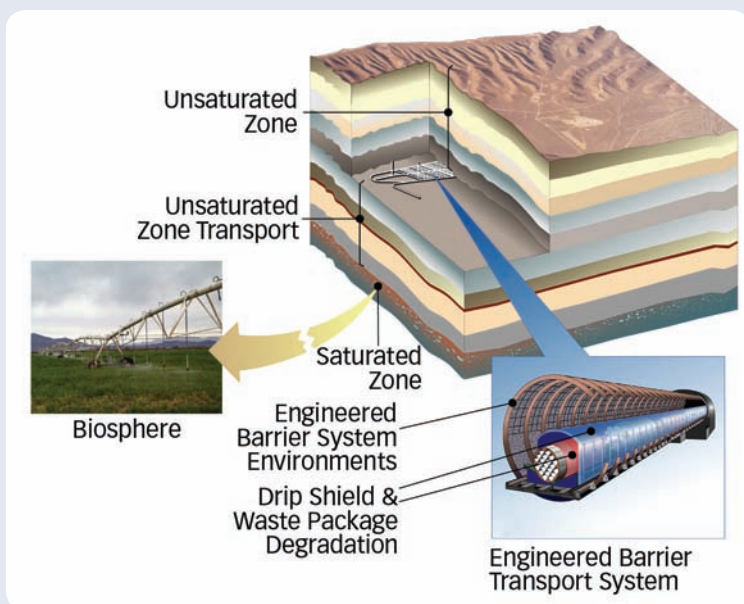
The 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act established a national nuclear-waste disposal system and gave the Energy Department until 1998 to open a permanent underground repository for high-level nuclear waste. Yucca Mountain in Nevada was singled out as the only site to be studied for a permanent repository. Even supporters of the deal conceded at the time that Nevada was a casualty in

a purely political process. Since that time, science has taken a back seat to the Department of Energy's obsession to make the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository a reality – at all costs.

And the cost is steep, even beyond the financial commitment required for the completion and operation of this dump – if that can ever happen. Because DoE currently faces so many serious setbacks, I question whether Yucca Mountain will ever open.

A federal appeals court ruled in July 2005 that a new radiation-safety standard must be established before DoE can file a licensing application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The standard must be at the point when the waste will be at its peak radiation.

Natural and engineered barriers at Yucca Mountain



According to the U.S. Department of Energy, plans for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository rely on a series of barriers that prevent or slow the movement of radioactive materials. These include natural barriers, such as thick unsaturated rock, and human-engineered obstacles.

The repository's current design calls for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to travel to the site by truck or rail in shielded shipping containers. Once the materials arrive, they would be removed from the shipping containers and placed in double-layered, corrosion-resistant packages for burying underground. Special rail cars would carry them underground, and remotely controlled equipment would place them on supports in an underground tunnel.



Senator says recycling can solve one of America's most troubling environmental issues.

That could be 300,000 years from the time the waste is sent to Yucca Mountain, instead of the arbitrary Environment Protection Agency standard of 10,000 years.

The 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act gave the Energy Department until 1998 to open a permanent underground geologic repository for high-level nuclear waste. Until recently, Yucca Mountain was scheduled to open in 2010, but that date is now indefinite.

E-mails from government workers on the Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Program indicate the science behind the repository may have been falsified. According to *The Washington Post*, "e-mails by a government scientist on the Yucca Mountain nuclear-waste dump project suggest the worker was planning to fabricate records and manipulate results to ensure outcomes that would help move the project forward."

A recent Inspector General's report found that DoE repeatedly gave bonuses to Bechtel Corp. in spite of poor work performance at Yucca Mountain. The report says DoE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management paid Bechtel \$4 million in "incentive-based fees" even though "Bechtel did not meet contract specifications."

Even plagued by all these problems and threats, the greatest cost to the United States of opening Yucca Mountain could arise from ignoring safer, smarter and more reasonable alternatives. I have long advocated investing in new technologies at our national labs to recycle nuclear waste. We recycle plastics, glass and paper products. Why not nuclear waste?

A potentially viable option to recycle nuclear waste is accelerator-driven transmutation of waste, or ATW. Simply put, ATW transforms

The American Legion's

Resolution No. 46, passed last summer during the 87th National Convention in Honolulu, calls for the president and Congress to compel the Department of Energy to comply with the requirements of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act by establishing a process to develop an integrated used-fuel management system and find sites for interim, centralized storage. The resolution also asks for DoE to make timely progress in the characterization of any proposed repository sites at various locations and seeks increased funding for scientific and engineering studies.

The resolution seeks involvement from local governments directly affected by interim storage and/or permanent disposal of nuclear waste. Involvement includes planning and receiving appropriate benefits from such facilities and urges the U.S. government to recycle nuclear waste to recover usable nuclear energy whenever possible.

long-lived radioactive products into less hazardous materials and generates electricity as a byproduct. Unlike the reprocessing of waste, ATW does not produce weapons-grade material as a byproduct. And recycling technology has a number of advantages over burying high-level nuclear waste. The waste that remains after completing the ATW recycling process is harmful for a dramatically shorter time than the unrecycled material. We know we can build a repository that will be safe for 300 years. We can't be certain Yucca Mountain will prove safe for 300,000 years, as is truly needed.

Even the advocates for transporting nuclear waste through 43 states to Nevada admit that by the time Yucca Mountain can begin accepting it, our country will have produced more than enough waste to fill it. Actually, under the current plan, we won't get rid of the nuclear waste backlog for nearly a century, and Yucca Mountain will have been filled long before then.

However, if we recycle the 70,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste requiring storage in 2015, ATW would leave roughly only 3,000 tons requiring high-level storage in a repository. Plus, the waste could be stored more densely because transmuted waste cannot start a nuclear reaction. That means volume requirements of a repository would be further reduced.

We are all aware that our nation needs to develop new clean energy sources. Recycling nuclear waste would produce around 5 trillion kilowatt hours of emissions-free energy over 40 years. With offsetting revenue from electricity sales, the project could nearly pay for itself, making it more cost-effective than storage at Yucca Mountain, which currently is projected to cost up to \$100 billion. Instead of spending it on a hole in a mountain, we should take that money and use it for research and development of recycling technology.

DoE scientists from Argonne National Laboratory already have come up with a way to recycle nuclear waste: pyroprocessing. All possible ways to recycle spent nuclear fuel must be explored. The government should not pick

winners when looking for an alternative to burying nuclear waste. Instead, let the competing ideas create the best option.

In the meantime, nuclear waste should be kept in dry-cask storage on the sites of nuclear reactors. It will be safe there for at least 100 years – plenty of time to find a viable alternative by developing recycling facilities. It is well worth the cost and effort to turn one of the most toxic substances into a clean energy alternative.

I have also introduced legislation with my colleague, Sen. Harry Reid, to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. Our bill requires ownership to all spent nuclear fuel, stored in dry casks, to be passed to DoE when the fuel is transferred on-site from storage pools to casks. Currently, individual nuclear waste sites retain ownership, meaning liability remains with them.

Conveying ownership means DoE will have full responsibility for the possession, stewardship, maintenance and monitoring of all spent nuclear fuel. This will ensure waste is stored under a uniform standard, protecting public health and safety. Through the legislation, DoE also would be made responsible for various maintenance and oversight associated with implementation.

Yucca Mountain is not the solution that politicians in 1982 believed it would be. Too many problems already have surfaced, and too many more questions remain unanswered. Continuing to pursue this project is a huge mistake that could have catastrophic consequences. I hope our nation takes a long, hard look at other options, including recycling.

With a projected cost of up to \$100 billion to complete Yucca Mountain, we cannot afford to waste more time focusing on an unrealistic plan that is not based on sound science and that will not be licensed in the foreseeable future. It is time to direct valuable resources toward a plan that will serve our nation best for generations to come. 🌿

Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., serves on the Armed Services, Budget and Veterans Affairs committees of the U.S. Senate.



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Joshua Clark never saw it coming. He didn't hear it when it did. It ripped through the floorboard of his Humvee, an explosion that spewed shrapnel everywhere. Metal shards tore through Clark's combat boots. A foot and arm were lacerated. His face was peppered; one piece lodged in his forehead. A Kevlar helmet saved his life, stopping a chunk of debris from penetrating his temple.

"At first, I thought I was blinded by the blast, but it was only temporary," the 23-year-old National Guard veteran explains, seated and fidgeting at a conference table in the Norwich, Conn., district office of Congressman Rob Simmons. "I somehow stumbled from the vehicle, but everything was a blur in slow motion. The guys in my squad told me later that I was yelling and screaming, but I don't remember it. At the time I couldn't figure out what happened."

What happened is this: Clark was driving lead in a two-vehicle military police patrol along a four-lane highway in Baghdad. As he approached and began to pass a slower civilian vehicle, a terrorist detonated a bomb by remote control – a bomb fashioned, it was later learned, from three artillery rounds. The U.S. soldiers at first thought the civilian driver ahead of them was a suicide bomber who had set off the blast. In fact, the Iraqi was an innocent victim who later died from injuries caused by the explosion.

"I almost killed the guy myself when he approached us yelling and waving his hands," Clark recalls. "But I didn't because he fell to the ground before I could charge my sidearm. The poor guy died because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I guess we were the lucky ones that day. We all lived."

Three years later, Clark is not so sure of his luck.

WAR HEAD

*Post-traumatic stress disorder is back with a vengeance.
Can VA handle it?*

BY JAMES V. CARROLL



Nearly three years after an explosive device detonated near his vehicle, Joshua Clark, 23, is haunted by combat memories of his tour of duty in Iraq. According to an Army study, returning U.S. servicemembers face an 18-percent risk of suffering post-traumatic stress disorder.

James V. Carroll

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That tragic moment on the war-torn streets of Baghdad plays in his mind, over and over, day after day, like a video loop. He has trouble concentrating. He is obsessed with to-do lists but neglects to refer to them. He has trouble keeping track of his schedule and sometimes forgets to go to work. Each day of his life is an emotional roller coaster. The slightest provocation can elicit an angry outburst. He values old friendships and distrusts new relationships. He doesn't contemplate thoughts of hurting himself but sometimes wonders if the day-to-day chaos of his life is worth the trouble.

"I don't know how people deal with me," Clark replies when asked about his chronic mood swings. "Even I sometimes can't deal with me."

A Looming Crisis. Clark is among a fast-swelling population of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans returning home with post-traumatic stress disorder

or suffering from some other mental-health condition. An Army study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 2004 estimated an 18-percent risk of PTSD for servicemembers returning from Iraq and an 11-percent risk after service in Afghanistan. The number of actual cases is a moving target, but VA records show that between October 2003 and February 2005 up to 26 percent of veterans seeking VA medical treatment were diagnosed with mental disorders. PTSD is the most prevalent among veterans who saw combat, says Fred Gusman, director of VA's National Center for PTSD in Menlo Park, Calif.

Gusman and other mental-health professionals say the risk of developing chronic military-related PTSD and other mental-health problems increases with frequency and intensity of combat. By most accounts, combat activities in Iraq and Afghanistan meet both criteria: frequent and intense.

Ninety-four percent of soldiers in Iraq reported receiving small-arms fire, according to the Army's 2004 study. In addition, 86 percent of soldiers in Iraq reported knowing someone who was seriously injured or killed. Sixty-eight percent reported seeing dead or seriously wounded Americans, and 51 percent reported handling or uncovering human remains. Seventy-seven percent of soldiers reported shooting or directing fire at the enemy, and 48 percent reported being responsible for the death of at least one enemy combatant. Twenty-eight percent reported being responsible for a noncombatant death.

Guerrilla warfare and terrorist actions from ambiguous and unknown enemies create unique stressors, Gusman says. Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan are required to maintain an unprecedented degree of vigilance. There is no safe place or safe role to perform.

The influx of PTSD cases arising from Iraq and Afghanistan worries Gusman. VA is capable of treating its current caseload, but he's not sure VA has the strategy or resources needed to meet future

demand. And no one knows the full limits of that demand. It's too early. He hopes veterans who fear they are afflicted will seek care sooner than later.

"Soldiers didn't come right away after Vietnam — they are still coming," Gusman says. "The sooner we can treat the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the brighter the prognosis."

A Small Step. Washington is starting to take notice. After years of funding cuts in VA psychiatry programs, federal legislators allocated \$2.2 billion in the fiscal 2006 budget solely for VA mental-health care. Funding for mental-health research also doubled. It was an unprecedented commitment.

"It's a small step, a first step," says American Legion National Commander Thomas L. Bock. "We are pleased PTSD and related mental-health conditions are finally being recognized by Congress and VA as problems unto themselves. But we are concerned that the seed money is too little and comes too late for many of America's emotionally wounded veterans. We applaud the heightened

More women in combat means more women with PTSD

Women in the military are as susceptible to PTSD as men, and many women suffer more pronounced and debilitating forms of the illness, according to VA psychiatric professionals.

Unlike many previous wars, Iraq and Afghanistan have placed more U.S. servicewomen than ever in combat situations. Many women have confirmed enemy kills. The killing of another human being is considered the top stressor in the diagnosis of PTSD.

"This is what is different about this war," Lt. Col. Richard Rael, commander of the 515th Corps Support Battalion, told *The Chicago Tribune*. "Women are fighting it. These little wisps of things are stronger than anyone could ever imagine and taking on more than most Americans could ever know."

Thousands of women, as a result, are returning home from war emotionally damaged by what they have seen and done. A recently published children's book, "Why Is Mommy Like She Is? A Book for Kids About PTSD," illustrates how the role of women in combat might affect the nation in years to come. VA estimates 8 to 10 percent of women veterans are afflicted by various degrees of PTSD or military sexual trauma.

Realizing the unique treatment requirements for women, VA opened the National Women's Trauma Recovery Program as part of the National Center for

PTSD at Menlo Park, Calif. The 10-year-old program is designed to treat women veterans with PTSD. They come to the intensive 60-day residential program from every state, all ages and walks of life.

"I don't know where I would be today, if it were not for the help I got here," says Lydia Epton, a 46-year-old Navy veteran who served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Epton says when she returned from the Gulf War her life became a living hell. She lived on the edge, often engaging in life-threatening activities. She was depressed and didn't know why. She bought alcohol and cocaine and locked herself in a hotel room for eight weeks. She awoke one day from a stupor, paralyzed on the left side of her body. She'd had a stroke.

"I had hit bottom," Epton recalls. "For some reason, I suddenly decided I didn't want to die, so I got in contact with VA."

After completing drug rehabilitation, Epton was admitted to the PTSD program at Menlo Park. It saved her life, she says. "The program did not cure me," Epton says. "I still have rough times. What it did was allow me to start living my life again. I know how to control the bad thoughts when they attack me. I've learned I can live life without hurting myself with alcohol and drugs. I can now walk again with my head up. I've gained back my self-respect."



— James V. Carroll

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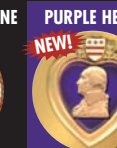
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awareness but remain cautious.”

The Legion and other veterans organizations are understandably wary. Last year, VA Secretary Jim Nicholson announced that VA was considering reviewing more than 70,000 PTSD disability claims approved between 1999 and 2004. VA’s plan was based on a May 2005 report by its Office of Inspector General, which found about 25 percent of 2,100 randomly selected cases were flawed by inadequate evidence of a traumatic event – a key requirement in a claim.

VA’s proposed review was widely assailed by veterans organizations. The American Legion publicly criticized it as a knee-jerk reaction to a flawed IG report. VA’s review would have only covered claims that were granted, not those that were erroneously or prematurely denied or granted low disability ratings.

“It was extremely irresponsible for VA to announce it would review thousands of previously granted PTSD cases without fully considering all possible ramifications,” Bock says. “It resulted in undue stress among an untold number of veterans with serious psychiatric disabilities. Veterans were concerned that VA would use the review to take their benefits or make them relive the events that caused their illnesses by requiring them to prove their cases all over again.”

After conducting its own review of the 2,100 studied cases, VA concluded that problems noted by the IG were mostly administrative. Late last year, VA called off the expanded review.

The American Legion’s Quality Review Team also studied the PTSD ratings process. In every regional VA office they studied, the team found instances of improper denial of claims. Common errors made by VA staff were failures to request

Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder

PTSD usually appears within three months of a trauma. But sometimes it can surface months, or even years, later. Psychiatrists identify PTSD according to four categories of symptoms:

Intrusive. A traumatic event remains a dominating psychological experience that evokes panic, terror, grief or despair as manifested in daytime fantasies, traumatic nightmares and psychotic reenactments known as PTSD flashbacks, or “triggers.” The triggers can be so strong that the individual thinks he or she is actually re-experiencing the trauma.

Avoidant. An individual may attempt to avoid feelings, thoughts and situations reminiscent of the trauma, and experience a loss of normal emotional responses. Taken to the extreme, this may resemble agoraphobia because the PTSD patient is afraid to leave the house for fear of confronting reminders of the traumatic event.

Hyperarousal. Individuals with PTSD often act as though they are constantly threatened by the trauma that caused their illness. These symptoms resemble those seen in panic and generalized anxiety.

Associated features. The person with PTSD may attempt to rid himself or herself of painful flashbacks, loneliness and panic attacks by abusing alcohol and other drugs. A PTSD patient may also show poor control over his or her impulses, increasing the risk of suicide.

Sources: VA, Houghton College Department of Psychiatry

supporting information and failing to fully develop a claim prior to adjudication. The Legion team found numerous occasions where VA unnecessarily required veterans to submit additional evidence to verify a claimed stressor when sufficient evidence had already been obtained. Under-evaluation of mental conditions of veterans also occurred in every regional office the Legion team visited.

“Veterans whose claims have already been established should not have to suffer through the long and agonizing claims process again, because of VA deficiencies,” Bock says. “Moreover, in light of its enormous claims and appeals backlog, VA simply should not have considered tapping its already limited resources to conduct a review of more than 70,000 cases that would otherwise not have been touched. The Legion is pleased that Secretary Nicholson decided to do the right thing and call off the review.”

Long Learning Curve. Post-traumatic stress disorder is not a new phenomenon. During the Civil War, it was often called “soldier’s heart.” Returning veterans from World War I, World War II

and Korea suffered what was labeled “shell shock” or “battle fatigue.” It wasn’t until Vietnam that military-related PTSD entered the psychiatric lexicon.

It has been a long learning curve for psychiatric professionals, but a better understanding of PTSD exists today thanks to a generation of Vietnam War veterans, Gusman says. Through long years of treatment experience and research, VA has developed new strategies and effective methods.

Early diagnosis is a critical lesson. “If not treated immediately, PTSD can last a lifetime,” Gusman

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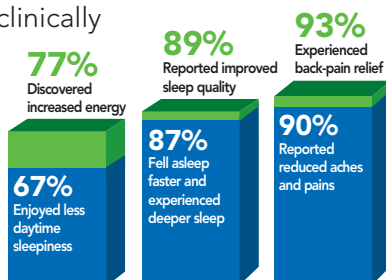


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says. "PTSD does not mean you are unable to function. It has degrees. Some people have symptoms but can function. Others cannot. We have learned that intensive counseling, group therapy and antidepressant medication are very effective strategies."

Unfortunately, DoD or VA cannot help those who suffer from PTSD if they do not come forward. Many active-duty servicemembers and veterans avoid treatment, according to a 2004 report by VA's Special Committee on PTSD. Committee co-chairman Dr. Harold Kudler cited two obstacles blocking diagnosis and treatment of PTSD. First is the stigma in the military associated with the disorder. Second is VA's inability to identify PTSD in returning servicemembers.

Within the Department of Defense, many consider it a bad idea to report symptoms of PTSD because they are concerned that it will interfere with their missions, disrupt morale and possibly curtail their military careers, Kudler told members of Congress. Although DoD screens returning servicemembers, VA often cannot access the questionnaire responses of veterans they serve, due to privacy rights. Such rights, however, make follow-up difficult, if not impossible, Kudler added.

"The culture is changing at DoD and VA," Gusman says. "There seems to be a greater willingness to cooperate. Gaps remain, but it's in everyone's interest to work together."

One way to identify PTSD is for the Pentagon to establish a center where all returning servicemembers receive psychological and social screening, Gusman says. Such a center could assist them with employment, housing, family therapy, and, if needed, referral to VA.

A Brighter Future. Fortunately for Clark, the Army recognized his wounds were more than physical. He received mental-health treatment from the Army before discharge and sought VA assistance shortly after his release.

For the most part, Clark's physical wounds are healed. But his emotional well-being is far from stable. Horrific memories of combat sporadically

PTSD's impact

144 Number of specialized PTSD programs in the VA health-care system

244,000 Approximate number of PTSD patients treated by VA in 2004

6,900 Number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans treated in 2004 for PTSD and other mental-health conditions

9,500 Minimum number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who received readjustment counseling at VA Vet Centers in 2004

\$4.3 billion Amount VA spent in 2004 on PTSD disability benefits

80 Percentage by which the number of veterans receiving PTSD compensation rose between 1999 and 2003

\$3,000 Approximate monthly compensation for a veteran rated 100 percent disabled by PTSD

creep into his working day and haunt his sleep. Nightly bouts of sheet-drenching nightmares have subsided, but seldom does a night go by when the young war veteran is not awakened.

"When I first came home, I would wake up terrified, thrashing around," Clark says. "Now I wake up in the night sometimes angry, sometimes frightened, but mostly feeling empty. It got so bad for a while that I hid in a bottle of alcohol. But everytime I sobered up, the faces were still there. I can't seem to erase the terrible images I saw in Iraq. It's not just when the IED exploded; it's all the other stuff, too."

Simple pleasures he once enjoyed are problematic today for Clark. He loved to immerse himself in music prior to his tour. In Iraq, he would soothe pent-up anger and aggressiveness by cranking up the volume on his stereo earphones and take a momentary respite from the

frightful desert nights. Music was a ticket home. Today, those same tunes create an emotional time machine that catapults him back to the war.

"I can't listen to my music today – it's too painful," Clark whispers. "I don't do a lot of things today I used to enjoy. I guess, when it comes down to it, I really don't have much fun anymore."

Still, Clark is better off than many sufferers of PTSD. He can function. He has a part-time job, attends college and is a wrestling coach at his local high school.

As part of his academic curriculum, Clark is an intern for U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn. He serves as a military and constituent services intern. But the former military policeman has lingering fear that everything he has worked for since his discharge will explode in his face as quickly as did the roadside bomb three years ago in Baghdad.

"It scares me sometimes," he says. "But all I can do is focus on what I have to do and take it one day and one night at a time. I'm alive. That poor civilian Iraqi driver is dead. I have a second chance at life." 🌿

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

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THE
TWO ASSASSINATIONS
OF
ABRAHAM • LINCOLN

BY JIM WOODARD

I'm the resident storyteller at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. One of my stories at the last Presidents Day event really fascinated the audience. It was a true Abraham Lincoln story that most people have never heard or read. At first, you'll think my historical accuracy is way off base, but stay with me:



Abraham Lincoln farmed a large land parcel in Kentucky. For four years, he worked hard to make a living on the farm, clearing land and planting and cultivating crops. However, he had a problem with local Indians, who didn't like Lincoln farming land they considered to be within their territory.

On several occasions, Indian braves stopped by to express their indignation about Lincoln's activities and told him to move out. He refused and instead continued to expand his farm.

One day, a rather large group of Indian braves came to Lincoln's cabin, kidnapped him and took him to the tribe's village. There, they forced Lincoln to "run the gauntlet," meaning he had to run between two long rows of braves while they struck him with sticks and branches. It was their way of punishing and humiliating him for not bowing to their demands.

That experience caused Lincoln to reflect. Perhaps he was intruding on their territorial rights. After all, the Indians were there first. Also, Lincoln feared what the Indians might do next. He packed his belongings and moved out.

About a year later, Lincoln reconsidered his move. He reasoned that he had just as much right to work the land as did the Indians. Sure, they were first to occupy the land, but they didn't own it. This began to eat at him until he finally decided to move back to his farm.

After returning, he worked the land even harder. The Indians again expressed their displeasure with him, but he was determined to continue his work.

One bright, sunny day, Lincoln was cutting down trees to expand his planting area. He heard a noise that sounded like someone stepping on dried leaves or twigs. He looked around but saw nothing. He concluded it was a squirrel and returned to clearing the land.

Unfortunately, the noise was no squirrel. An Indian brave, sent by his tribe to kill Abraham Lincoln, stepped out from behind a tree. With a rifle recently stolen from a white man, he aimed at Lincoln's back and fired.

Lincoln slumped to the ground, gasping for air with a bullet embedded in his chest. He looked up in time to see the Indian brave running away through the trees. Then, glancing toward an open area about 50 feet away, Lincoln spotted his 6-year-old son, Thomas. Little Thomas had seen everything. Then Abraham Lincoln died.

Years later, when Thomas was 28, he married Nancy Hanks and had a son of his own. He named him after his father, Abraham. It was this Abraham Lincoln who became the 16th president of the United States.

President Lincoln wrote about his grandfather Abraham on several occasions. He had served as a captain in the Revolutionary War, then emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky with his wife and five children in 1781 to establish a farm.

Several interesting similarities exist between the two Abraham Lincolns, grandfather and grandson. Both married women named Mary. Both had sons named Thomas. And both were shot from behind. 🍀

*Jim Woodard of Ventura, Calif., is a storyteller and writer.
www.jimwoodard.net or storyjim@aol.com*

MEET BOB.

BOB IS IN HARDWARE.

(HE'S REALLY BIG IN HARDWARE.)

BOB HAS A MESSAGE FOR CORPORATE AMERICA.

In 1979, after its first full year in business, The Home Depot recorded approximately \$7 million in sales. Today, the company does that in an hour.

If it were a nation unto itself, The Home Depot, with \$73.1 billion in 2004 sales, would rank right in the middle of the world economy – somewhere between the gross domestic products of Bulgaria and Israel. It is the third-largest retailer in the world. It is the eighth-largest employer in the United States. It operates more than 1,960 stores; another outlet opens every 48 hours. In the past five years, it has been a steady performer in an otherwise turbulent stock market, increasing earnings per share by 105 percent. It is, without question, a corporate goliath.

A large part of Bob Nardelli's job is to make sure it's a goliath with a heart.

Nardelli took the reins at The Home Depot, Inc., in late 2000 after a 30-year career divided between General Electric and Case Construction Equipment. He was a likely candidate to replace the legendary Jack Welch at the helm of GE six years ago, having successfully led GE Power Systems, Inc. Passed over, Nardelli was swiftly snapped up by The Home Depot, and under his leadership, the company has nearly doubled its annual sales. He's done so by thinking outside the big box, working the online market, and bringing new and different forms of The Home Depot to urban, suburban and international markets. He is known in corporate circles as a hard worker, a technological innovator and a master of acquisitions. Welch once described him as the "best operating executive I've ever seen."

He's also a family man, a NASCAR fan and a values-driven American who has done more to rebuild public faith in corporate citizenship than Enron did to unravel it. The recipient of an American Legion commendation for public service last summer, Nardelli recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

**"I THINK VALUE AND
VALUES ARE INEXTRICABLY
LINKED. I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU HAVE ONE
WITHOUT THE OTHER."**



Q: *How does The Home Depot integrate corporate citizenship into its business philosophy?*

A: The wonderful part about this company is that service is at its core. It permeates more from the bottom up than from the top down. Every Monday, we have a meeting called QMI – quick market intelligence – and we really try to cover two big themes. One is creating financial value. The other is continuing to build our values.

Q: *How willing are Home Depot employees to perform community service outside their paid jobs?*

A: It is totally at their discretion. We do not compensate our associates for the literally millions of hours they contribute. Last September alone, Home Depot did over 300,000 hours and about 2,000 projects across the whole country. We're blessed to have 325,000 associates who understand the importance of service in the store.



Therefore, it is very easy for them to carry service into the community.

Q: *How does community service and volunteerism put a better face on corporate America, given the troubles in recent years with accounting manipulation and inconsistent stockholder confidence?*

A: Obviously, when you think about the literally thousands of corporations, it is unfortunate that a few took it upon themselves to rise above the letter and, equally important, the spirit of the laws. But at the end of the day, I think what happens is, and maybe it's human nature, we tend to broad-brush. All corporations got tainted during that period. While the media was negatively broad-brushing corporate America, they missed the point that corporate America is made up of corporate Americans. These are outstanding men and women who do have high ethics, who do have high morals, who are raising their families in communities and areas that we are really privileged to work in.

Q: *You are co-chairman of the Hands On Network advisory board representing 29 U.S. corporations and 52 nonprofit organizations that are trying to drive volunteerism and civic engagement. How is that working?*

A: What we are trying to do through the Hands On Network and working with the not-for-profit sector is to come up with a prescription for positive change and to really make corporate volunteerism the glue that stitches together all of the energies out there. We try to foster initiatives our associates feel good about: building things, restoring things. We could certainly be critical of the things that have gone wrong in the last two hurricanes, but I think you would have to agree that what's gone right has been corporate involvement with key nonprofit organizations. I think the combination of public and private partnership puts a whole new complexion on corporations today.

I was very privileged to have been selected by the White House and sworn in on the President's Council for Service and Civic Participation. What I saw was clearly the private sector has not only the financial wherewithal – and certainly the philanthropic contribution is important – but then the ability to multiply that with sweat equity, working in harmony with nonprofits in the community that can help us with project selection and management. We had an unbelievable launch. We picked

Home Depot CEO Bob Nardelli believes in the value of sweat equity. Last September, he worked on six different community projects in the United States and Canada.

Courtesy Home Depot

September as a designated month of service. And then we set some outrageous goals: 500,000 hours in the month and 2,000 projects. And over 10 years we said we wanted to increase the number of volunteers by 10 percent.

Q: *Is it working?*

A: We're well on track. We will deliver the 500,000 hours. We will do the 2,000 projects. And we're well on track toward the 6.4 million incremental volunteers over two years. I couldn't be prouder.

Q: *Do you see it expanding?*

A: I'm getting a lot of calls about increasing the outer circle, an ever-increasing concentric circle, of the next 100 corporations. We'll get the next 100 companies. So, what we will do is have these ever-increasing rings of mobilization as we go forward.

Q: *Does a program like this represent a unique milestone in corporate America?*

A: Think about this: I'm working arm in arm last Saturday with UPS. I'm working arm in arm with Starwood. I'm working with Delta, Price-Waterhouse, SAP, 3M, Citigroup, Coca-Cola, Dell – all of these wonderful people, including our suppliers – and we're all providing sweat equity for a common cause. You couldn't be more excited about the unification of suppliers, corporations, nonprofits and, in some cases, local, state, municipality government leaders. We have built playgrounds with the White House. We have had senators and congressmen on site with us – the governor, the mayor, the local congressional leaders. I could go on and on. It's just a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in a nonpartisan way and do the right thing and do more things right.

Q: *How does troop support fit into your philosophy?*

A: We have a very strong organizational structure at The Home Depot to support the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect

Walking the walk

Hands On Network

Nardelli co-chairs a nationwide volunteer service effort, linking U.S. corporations and non-profits to tackle tough problems in communities.

KaBOOM!

The Home Depot and the nonprofit KaBOOM! share in a \$25 million, 1 million-hour volunteer effort to build and rebuild playspaces in America, benefiting 1.5 million kids and their parents.

Military support

Home Depot's Operation Career Front offers newly discharged veterans career training and opportunities for employment. The company's Operation Home Front is a \$1 million, 1 million-hour volunteer commitment to families of deployed troops. In 2004, the company donated \$1 million in tools and materials to support military efforts in Iraq.

our homeland, and that's the outgrowth of our Home Front initiative. We got board approval for \$1 million. Our associates committed to 1 million hours. We put together this program that while the troops are protecting our homeland we were going to protect their home front.

We are very proud of Operation Career Front, which spawned when the initial war broke out in Afghanistan and Iraq. We said, "Let's immediately commit to taking care of pay differential. Let's take care of benefits."

If you walk our corridors, you will see more than 1,800 Blue Star service flags, one for every associate who's deployed.

We've reached out. We have hired something like 30,000 veterans in the past two years. Also, it's very tough, as military men and women are transferred around the country, for a spouse to hold a job. We have a wonderful platform of more than 1,950 stores. I was down in Fort Worth the other day talking to an associate who had been with us for eight years but in that store only three months. When I asked how she got there, she said, "Well, my husband was transferred, and I was able to keep all of my service, all of my pay, all of my continuity and get re-employed at the local Home Depot near the base." We think that's important.

Q: *What attracts your company to military families?*

A: The military shares a lot of the same values about commitment, about ethics and about leadership that are totally aligned with what we look for in our associates.

Q: *You also actively recruit leaders among newly discharged junior officers.*

A: That's a whole other initiative. We've got over 1,000 (junior military officers) both in direct-hire and in store-leadership programs. We take very talented men and women who have demonstrated their leadership skills by the badge they wear – of being an officer in one of the branches. We put them through a very intensive two-year, rotational assignment, and they come out and run a \$50-60-70-million business. You can imagine the alignment. That is why we were voted No. 1 a couple of times in GI Jobs. We have gotten tremendous support.

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The war with terrorists and the liberation of Iraq continue to cost taxpayers countless dollars. Add to the equation over 7.7 million unemployed Americans, out of control government spending, the inability to balance the budget, and an insurmountable debt that tops \$8.1 trillion that grows each and every minute, and it is easy to see why it's harder than ever to obtain and maintain financial security. There is, however, good news. As predicted, the Gold Market is well on its way towards the \$2,000 an oz. mark. Further, it has outperformed most stocks for the past five years. In addition, the performance of CD's and savings accounts can't even come close to the gains that Gold has made. This is why now is the time to move paper assets into Gold. Catastrophic debt and floundering economies have proven to be the perfect breeding ground that sends Gold through the roof. Now that Gold has moved past the important \$500 per ounce level, it is crucial that individuals move fast because as soon as tomorrow, Gold could start its predicted rise from \$500 to \$2,000 per ounce. Do not be left behind while others gain from this market. Act now so you don't have any regrets later.

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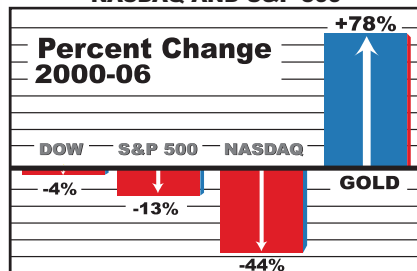
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Q: *What does the veteran employee or manager bring to the table?*

A: A tremendous amount of self-confidence, ethics, morals, ability to make judgments. They understand the importance of the team. They can build things. They are immersed in the importance of camaraderie and organizational effectiveness.

Q: *How have you maintained connections with the military, particularly your deployed associates?*

A: I continually send letters to our associates on active duty – a series of updates throughout the year, to say, “Here’s what we’ve done as a company as it relates to, for instance, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.” And when they come back, we talk to them. We have a welcome-home, a formal re-engagement.

We’ve asked what else can we do to help the men and women still over there. They say, “Bob, what would be great is power tools. Cordless power tools that would help not only in putting up barracks and taking them down, portable camps, etc., but it would also help in the rebuilding effort.” So we worked with the Pentagon and each branch and then distributed \$1 million in tools. It was a wonderful and emotional event. The stores loaded trucks that crossed the country to the port of debarkation to ship containers to various branches. There was a lot of ownership in it.

We also have a Home Depot spousal program. For example, my wife sponsored a number of other spouses at our house. We packed 400 Home Depot buckets – these 5-gallon orange buckets – because what the military men and women said was, “Send us things like Tabasco sauce, send us socks, send us hygiene products” So, we just had a pick-and-pack party. And in one day, we packed up 400 buckets, loaded them and had them UPS-ed and Federal Express-ed that evening.



Approximately 700 volunteers spent one day rebuilding a 10-acre park and community center in Atlanta. The project, sixth in a series last September, connected the nonprofit KaBOOM! with the for-profit Home Depot and other corporations. *Courtesy Home Depot*

Q: *Projects that benefit children also fit into your definition of corporate citizenship.*

A: At the East Lake Community Center, with Hands On Atlanta, we had about 700 volunteers.

We worked from

7:30 until 5:30 and basically re-did a 10-acre site, with playgrounds, a walking trail, new cabinets in the community center, repainting ... It was an unbelievable experience. In Houston we re-did an entire school to facilitate dislocated children from New Orleans. It is a rich, rewarding and emotionally gratifying experience. Once you do it, if you have an ounce of citizenship in you, it really brings to light what is important. One of the real benefits is when we do it at schools. The youth of America represent 20 percent of the population but 100 percent of the future. It leaves a lasting impression as they mature, about giving back and taking care of each other.

Q: *How does all this affect The Home Depot's bottom line?*

A: I think value and values are inextricably linked. I don't know how you have one without the other.

Q: *Can you say what kind of effect community service has on customers and employees?*

A: I think consumers today are interested in more than just great value and price, and they vote with their hard-earned dollars. I think our associates are interested in more than just the paycheck. It's important for people to feel they are part of a corporation that reflects their personal character.

Q: *Sort of like the character members of our armed forces must demonstrate when serving our country?*

A: The most precious thing we have is our freedom, our democracy. The only reason I can do what I do is because the military does what they do, and that is protect our homeland, and make sure we have freedom of speech and free trade, the ability to travel across this country unintimidated. I don't think you can have enough respect for what these men and women are asked to do. I have a tremendous amount of respect for them. 🌿

Interview: Jeff Stoffer



AP

VA's Budget Bust of 2005

Rep. Steve Buyer says the health-care system's funding model is not broken. It just needs to be more businesslike to keep up with the 'ebb and flow.'

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer, R-Ind., called a series of hearings last summer that seemed destined to take on one of VA's most elusive problems: its health-care budget process. Soon into the journey, however, members of Congress found themselves confronted by a more urgent dilemma: insufficient funds to finish 2005. The system was running on fumes. That grave reality soon drowned out the discussion on how the budget is built. By the end of the 2005 fiscal year, it would be shot.

First-year VA Secretary Jim Nicholson had planned to squeeze millions from capital reserves and carryover accounts, draining them, to make ends meet. More than 85,000 new patients from Iraq and Afghanistan – a number far greater than expected – had by then poured into VA hospitals and clinics. Rising costs, increased patient loads and lackluster collections from insurance companies were all given a share of blame. Congress acted quickly and passed a \$1.5 billion emergency spending bill to help the nation's largest

health-care system survive the year's final quarter.

Buyer, six months on the job as chairman, merely wanted VA Under Secretary Jonathan Perlin to explain how the annual funding request – which seems to be annually off the mark – comes into existence. He also invited The American Legion and other veterans organizations to explain how they calculate their annual budget recommendations, which are annually closer to reality.

Early on, Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., framed the discussion with a question: "Are we budgeting for better health care for veterans or are we budgeting for saving money?"

Buyer says VA must find ways to close the gap between data-collection year and budget year. A central problem with the 2005 shortfall was its reliance on patient numbers from 2003. He says VA must employ better business savvy to project its funding needs. However, he says, change won't happen overnight.

And while last summer's hearings may improve the math, Buyer says it's unlikely

Congress will significantly change its appropriations philosophy. Currently, VA health care is a discretionary cost. The American Legion and members of Congress have argued to make it mandatory, like Medicare or Social Security, to prevent budget shortfalls like the one in 2005. Buyer promotes a more business-like approach, including user fees and deductible increases for certain types of veterans, to close the gap between dollars and demand.

Buyer recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about last summer's hearings, the shortfall and where the VA health-care budget debate goes from here.

Q: *What inspired you to call hearings to examine VA's health-care budget model?*

A: I served as chairman of the personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee with responsibility over the military health-delivery system, and I would deal with the surgeons general of each of the services in putting together their budgets every year. It was extraordinarily challenging because we would deal with ghost populations. Military retirees and their dependents would ebb and flow and cherry-pick multiple systems based on services. The surgeons general of the Air Force, the Army, the Navy ... they would always have to come back, and we would have to make additions in their budgets. After having done that for several years, I got into modeling issues with them.

The reality is that the landscape shifts like a beach on the surf because you have the ebb and flow of a population that picks and chooses when they want to move in and out of the system.

Q: *VA's health-care budget model has been an issue for veterans groups for a long time. Why do you think it had not been examined in this way before?*

A: I don't think anybody had the experience I had, handling it from that approach, here in Congress.

Q: *What makes it so difficult to forecast VA's health-care budget needs?*

A: This ghost population. These are veterans who have access to multiple health systems. They might be eligible for health care from a

pension. They also might have health care from some place at work. And they might also have access to VA through disability or because they are a 7 or an 8 (priority groups of veterans eligible for VA health care). They look at multiple health systems, and the individual is making a choice to move in and out, based on a variety of reasons. It might be where they live. It also might be cost on prescriptions. It is very challenging and very difficult to manage.

Q: *How does the uncertainty of increases in VA-eligible veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan affect the budget?*

A: That's where we got into the whole question of modeling. This model we are using – is it the correct model? The model is the very same model used by private entities in the marketplace. There is nothing wrong with the model. It is the assumptions. It is the data. Is it current? Is it credible? We looked at this and said, "All right, we had faulty assumptions." We learned that the data put into the model was two and three years old and that the

assumptions did not even take into account the surge from OIF and OEF (Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom). It also did not take into account the surge of 7s and 8s.

Q: *Besides the shortfall, what other discoveries did the hearings produce?*

A: It is very important – and I think VA has learned this lesson – that if we are going to continue to open access to VA for non-service-connected treatment, we have to act and be more like a business. When we opened access of the system, the veterans service organizations that supported it, along with those of us in Congress, believed it would be a revenue enhancement. Right now, we're losing money in this proposition. We have to think and be more like a business. There are some who disagree with me. That's why I support things like an enrollment fee and deductibles and co-pays. These are extremely important aspects of running it more like a business.

Q: *What about VA's problems collecting money from insurance companies and other third-party payers?*

A: Congressman (Jim) Walsh and I three years ago said, "How do we tap into the great minds

"If we are going to continue to open access to VA for non-service-connected treatment, we have to act and be more like a business."

in the private sector and utilize the best business practices?” We have a current pilot project in Ohio. Right now, Chairman Walsh has some provisions that hopefully will come out of the appropriations conference to have a second competitive pilot. It will permit VA to look at two different approaches on how to improve our collections.

Q: *Are you talking about outsourcing?*

A: This is not outsourcing. This is how we improve the revenue-enhancement cycle internally. I am spending a lot of my time and the effort of the committee on popping the hood and figuring out how we make the engine run more efficiently. It's not a lot of splash. When you send your car in to get fixed, you just want to make sure it runs right. That's what we are doing. We are doing the mechanics and maintenance of a health system right now, to get it to run more efficiently and improve our health care, which is also about patient medical records, electronics. We are going to create a centralized approach to information technology. That is extremely important. Creating the centralized approach is estimated to save \$1 billion over five years. So it's not just collections.

Q: *Where do you take last summer's exploration of VA's health-care budget model from here?*

A: It continues. VA right now is working with OMB (Office of Management and Budget) putting together an '07 budget. We will continue to work with VA to make sure they utilize current data and assumptions.

Q: *Is it unusual that VA had budget carryover money and was planning to use it to cover the fiscal 2005 shortfall?*

A: None of that is new. Even if you're in business, you have to make sure you have sufficient cash flow in your accounts. We cannot take our health systems and say, “OK, we get to spend all of your money in the fiscal year.” The carryovers are meant to be just that, to carry over, in case you get an unexpected surge.

Q: *How do you close the gap between data collection year and budget year?*

A: We all believe in swift and bold changes. Realistically, they come incrementally. The things that I am working on, you can connect the dots. Whether it's bringing the data and as-

sumptions current in the modeling, whether it's making the chief information officer (CIO) a line in budget authority, these are all things that are extremely important and can have an effect on the system. I also believe that VA should be brought on equal par with other federal departments and have the same number of political appointments. It is bizarre to me that we have penalized VA and handed over the reins to the bureaucracy.

VA is renowned for its health care. It is renowned for its patient medical records. People want to follow that model right now. They want to follow what we are about to do with the CIO. I have the bureaucracy in VA fighting my efforts to bring these efficiencies. There is too much autonomy right now within the VA health-care system. You have hospital directors and VISN (Veterans Integrated Service Network) directors out there who like to do their own thing and are very resistant to centralized management, where we can bring efficiencies and standardization.

Q: *What other steps can be taken to protect veterans from shortfalls like the one in 2005?*

A: Not only am I demanding accountability, so is the leadership of The American Legion and other military and veterans groups. In order to do that, the secretary now has been put on notice that he owns all future budgets. That increases greater accountability on his part.

Q: *Do you foresee the VA health-care budget model changing substantially anytime soon?*

A: These hearings that we went through highlighted that the data were not current and there were faulty assumptions, but there was nothing wrong with the model.

Q: *Do you plan to resume your examination of the VA health-care budget process?*

A: It requires constant maintenance because of the fluidity of the ghost population, the population that ebbs and flows in and out of the system, and it is very difficult to get predictability on budgets when people move in and out. If you are in my system, I can do better forecasting based on your present health. But if you are moving in and out of several different health systems, it's hard for me to get predictability, especially when I'm dealing with millions of people. 🌿

Interview: Jeff Stoffer

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Reviewed by The Wall Street Journal

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[VERBATIM]

"This is the day to get our revenge on Saddam."

Chiman Saleh, a Kurdish housewife who said two of her brothers were killed by the former Iraqi dictator's regime, speaking about the country's Dec. 15 elections

"The fundies want it all taught in a science class, but this will be a nice slap in their big fat face by teaching it as a religious-studies class under the category 'mythology.'"

Paul Mirecki, chairman of the University of Kansas religious-studies department, in a private e-mail, on adding a course titled "Special Topics in Religion: Intelligent Design, Creationism and Other Religious Mythologies" after the Kansas State Board of Education adopted new standards that question evolution

"You can call me anything you want, but do not call me a racist."

President George W. Bush, in an interview with "NBC Nightly News," on allegations that racial indifference played a role in the federal government's slow response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

"It would be hard to know what would happen to the economy of the United States if it wasn't for the enormous contribution, the productivity, the quality of work of our countrymen in that country."

Mexican President Vicente Fox, who called U.S. plans to build a Mexico-California border fence "disgraceful" and "shameful"

"He felt he had created kind of a monster."

Kent Farnsworth, referring to his father Philo T. Farnsworth, the inventor of television

"(W)hen you're close to the goal, you're like, 'Do I want to score a goal or breathe?' Most of the time I say, 'Score.'"

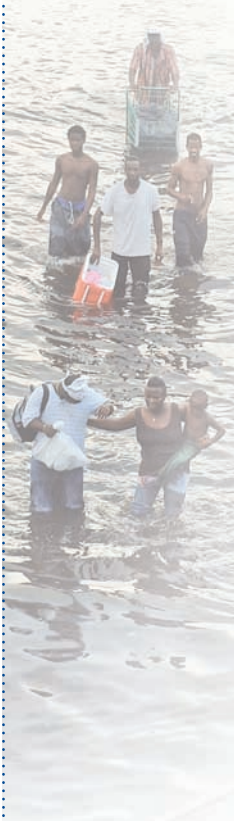
A Cincinnati high-school student who plays underwater hockey, a sport with nearly 50 U.S. teams

[SERVICE]

'Why am I not doing something?'

That's the question Bob Gehlen asked right before he and his Minnesota Legion post stepped up for veterans and children in Louisiana.

BY JEAN L. McCORKLE



The entire country watched in horror as the fetid water rose in New Orleans, taking lives and livelihoods by the thousands. Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath moved the hearts of millions across the country and around the world. When American Legion District 3 Post 96 Commander Bob Gehlen learned no fund-raising drives were being conducted in his south-central Minnesota city of Hutchinson, he thought, "Why am I not doing something?"

"The whole country watched this thing and saw the devastation. I think the whole country should stand up and do something," he said.

Gehlen offered Post 96 as a community collection center. Then, after raising \$12,364 for hurricane relief, Legionnaires considered how to best use the money.

He searched for a deserving Legion post along the Gulf Coast. He found one. It was Hutchinson's sister post: Post 96, Morgan City, La., also in the state's third district. Hutchinson and Morgan City are roughly the same size, and both are familiar with natural disasters. Hurricane Andrew struck Morgan City in 1992, and rural areas of south-central Minnesota suffered devastating tornadoes in 1998.

Gehlen and Roger Olson, past department commander for Minnesota and adjutant of Post 96 in Hutchinson, flew to New Orleans on their own dime last December and delivered a check to the the Morgan City post.

The Minnesota Legionnaires were overwhelmed by their reception. "It's nice to see and meet the people who will distribute the funds and to have confidence that we're doing something good," Gehlen said.

Many Legion posts adopted their counterparts along the Gulf Coast to help other veterans, but

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[NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND]

Breathing a little easier

A heart-transplant patient and member of Legion Post 820 in Independence, La., found it extremely hard to breathe in the high humidity that strangled the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina struck. His rental home had no generator to provide air conditioning, so he used what little money he had to travel to the nearest town and buy a generator. The trip took five days. He powered it up, then got to work repairing his rented home and removing debris from the yard. He was nearly broke when he heard about the National Emergency Fund. His grant request was approved within days.



Jean L. McCorkle

Foreign aid to America? Believe it or not!

Some of America's closest friends and fiercest enemies offered assistance in response to Hurricane Katrina. Among the surprises found in a list compiled by *Foreign Policy* magazine were Venezuela's \$1 million pledge, Vietnam's \$100,000 pledge, tiny Djibouti's \$50,000 gift and Sri Lanka's \$25,000.

Old friends in Australia (\$7.6 million), Canada (\$5.1 million plus military equipment), Britain (400,000 MREs plus search personnel), France (\$1 million plus hundreds of tents and cots) and Germany (70,000 MREs plus vaccinations and water-purification equipment) stepped up. The Greek government's offer of 2,000 face and body towels may have been the most unusual pledge.

Oil-rich nations that depend on America for protection opened their checkbooks and oil wells: Bahrain offered \$5 million; Kuwait proposed \$100 million in cash and \$400 million in oil; and Saudi Arabia pledged \$5 million and promised to increase oil production to steady global energy prices.

Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Iraq offered \$500,000, \$100,000 and \$1 million respectively. Iran offered 20 million barrels of oil but – surprise – only if U.S. sanctions are lifted.

41

this connection was different. The entire amount raised went to improving the situation for children.

A Christmas party was held for displaced children, and school supplies were purchased for use in outlying parishes. A donation to the local Toys for Tots campaign, which serves portions of three parishes, also came from the Minnesota funds. Toys for Tots experienced nearly double its usual number of requests this year.

"Soldiers take care of soldiers, and veterans take care of veterans, but veterans love kids," Olson explained.

Thanks to one veteran and a Legion post that asked, "Why am I not doing something?" support, relief and hope all arrived in the aftermath of one of U.S. history's most terrible moments.

Commander Bob Gehlen, foreground, and Adjutant Roger Olson, background in red hat, of Hutchinson, Minn., Post 96 hand-delivered more than \$12,000 to a Louisiana post. The large donation has helped provide relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, particularly for children.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND, P.O. BOX 6141, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206

Catch 22, hurricane style

With his 11-year-old granddaughter in his arms, a Legionnaire from Post 139 evacuated his home in Waveland, Miss., just before Hurricane Katrina swept through his community. His house was severely damaged, and he lost most of his personal possessions. But that was just the start of his problems.

Although he had flood insurance, his insurance company would not pay the claim, insisting it could not determine if the damage was caused by flooding

or by high winds. FEMA could not provide the veteran with financial assistance because he had flood insurance. Subsequently, he was unable to have his home repaired and was forced to live in a tent with his wife and granddaughter in what was left of their front yard. A little sunshine came into his life, however, when his NEF grant application was swiftly processed and approved by the NEF team at National Headquarters.

The legacy of a disabled veteran

California Legionnaire devoted his life to inspiring others like him.

Charles C. McGonegal of Sunol, Calif., was a World War I veteran and a double amputee who transformed tragedy into triumph. He died more than 40 years ago, after touching the lives of hundreds of disabled veterans.

McGonegal was an Army infantryman when he lost both lower arms to the elbows in February

1918 during hand-grenade combat in the Seicheprey-Toul sector of France. He suffered numerous other injuries in the blast, including a compound fracture of the skull. He was sent to an Army field hospital in Chattereaux, France, where he began the long road to recovery.

There, McGonegal teamed up with another amputee, Walter Antoniewicz of Brooklyn, N.Y., who lost both feet when he was struck by a 14-inch German shell in the Arras sector of France in April 1918. Every day, the soldier with no hands pushed the wheelchair of the soldier with no feet to the dining room. And every meal, the soldier with no feet fed the one with no hands.

One day, Antoniewicz remarked to McGonegal, "If you can get

along without your fins, I can get along without my pins." That spirit enabled both men to overcome their handicaps and later return to productive civilian lives – Antoniewicz with wooden legs and

McGonegal with wooden forearms fitted with steel hooks. The two men remained

inseparable after their discharges.

After the war, they joined The American Legion. Known as "Tony and Mac," the pair became rehabilitation field service representatives, traveling the country to rebuild the morale of hundreds of hospitalized World War II amputees. Tony and Mac also met with industry leaders, demonstrating how amputee veterans can capably hold down jobs.

During his years with the Legion, McGonegal served in various positions in the Department of California and later as a national vice commander.

A member of William Charles Orr Jr. Post 120, in Bell, Calif., he died in 1960 at age 64, but his spirit and patriotism remain an inspiration.

– Elissa Kaupisch



Granddaughter resurrects McGonegal's message

Forty years after her grandfather's death, Linda McGonegal has composed a printed tribute to her grandfather that she hopes to distribute to members of the armed forces. The 8x10 tribute, suitable for framing, includes her grandfather's motto for living, a poem she wrote about his faith and a photo of "smiling Mac."

"My grandfather served his country honorably and lost his arms as a result," McGonegal says. "This photo of him shows a man who, despite his handicaps, always had a smile for everyone. I know if he were alive today, he would encourage our wounded servicemembers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan."

[SUPPORT]

Legion helps severely injured daughter of D.C. comrade

Julie Mogenis was living in Hunt, Texas, when she was critically injured in a shooting accident. A high-powered rifle accidentally discharged, and the bullet entered Julie's lower stomach and exited through her right buttocks. She received life-threatening injuries. Her female organs were destroyed, and severe damage was sustained to her lower intestines, bladder and pelvic bone structure.

Julie is the daughter of Bron Mogenis, a member of Washington D.C.'s J. Edgar Hoover Memorial American Legion Post 56 and the National Legislative Commission. Her hospital bills now exceed \$500,000. For that reason, the Department of D.C. has established a fund to help the family.

Checks should be made payable to The American Legion Department of D.C. with 'Julie Mogenis Fund' written on the check memo line. So far, more than \$20,000 has been raised.

Julie Mogenis Fund

For information and updates, contact Dennis Kurre:

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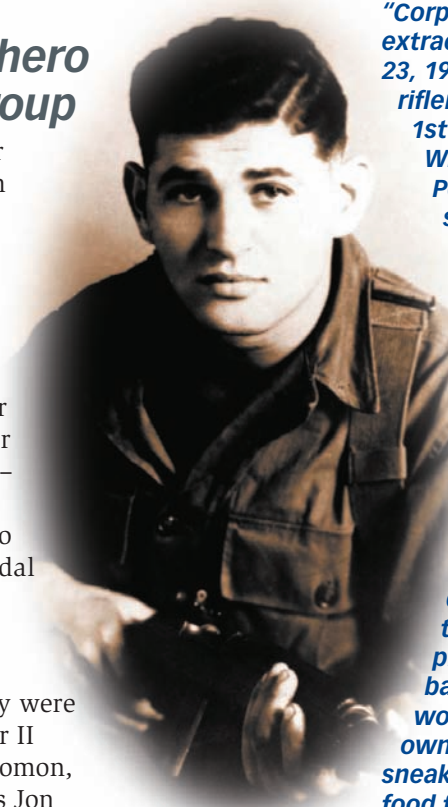
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[HONOR]

Korean War hero joins elite group

Hungarian born Tibor "Ted" Rubin joined an exclusive club last September when President George W. Bush presented him with the Medal of Honor. Since 1863, 3,461 Medals of Honor have been awarded for 3,456 acts of heroism – including nine unknowns – according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

President Bush has presented five other Medals of Honor. They were awarded to World War II veteran Ben Louis Salomon, Vietnam War veterans Jon Swanson, Ed Freeman and Humbert Roque Versace, and Iraq war veteran Paul Ray Smith. President Clinton presented 26 Medals of Honor during his presidency. Only three have been awarded for post-Vietnam War actions.



"Corporal Tibor Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism during the period from July 23, 1950, to April 20, 1953, while serving as a rifleman with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in the Republic of Korea. While his unit was retreating to the Pusan Perimeter, Corporal Rubin was assigned to stay behind to keep open the vital Taegu-Pusan Road link ... During the ensuing battle, overwhelming numbers of North Korean troops assaulted a hill defended solely by Corporal Rubin. He inflicted a staggering number of casualties on the attacking force during his personal 24-hour battle, single-handedly slowing the enemy advance and allowing the 8th Cavalry Regiment to complete its withdrawal successfully ... On Oct. 30, 1950, Chinese forces attacked his unit at Unsan during a massive nighttime assault. That night and throughout the next day, he manned a .30-caliber machine gun at the south end of the unit's line after three previous gunners became casualties ... As the battle raged, Corporal Rubin was severely wounded and captured ... (He) disregarded his own personal safety and immediately began sneaking out of the camp at night in search of food for his comrades. Breaking into enemy food storehouses and gardens, he risked certain torture or death if caught. Corporal Rubin provided not only food to the starving soldiers, but also desperately needed medical care and moral support for the sick and wounded ... saving the lives of as many as 40 of his fellow prisoners ..."

From the Medal of Honor citation for Tibor Rubin who survived 14 months at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria before he was freed by U.S. soldiers during World War II. Forever thankful, he joined the U.S. Army, refused deportation to Hungary after his capture in North Korea, and became a U.S. citizen after his tour.

[BY THE NUMBERS]

Ultimate test of citizenship

27,000 Approximate number of foreign nationals who have served in the U.S. military in the war on terrorism
59 Minimum number of foreign nationals who obtained posthumous citizenship for having given their lives in service to the United States

Source: DoD

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

A clear and present case for caution with China

Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations has laid out a detailed case against a U.S.-People's Republic of China partnership. He notes that:

■ The PRC has passed a law asserting its authority "to employ 'non-peaceful means' against Taiwan should the island democracy take any steps toward independence."

■ Beijing has worked with Moscow to pressure Asian nations to kick U.S. forces out of key bases.

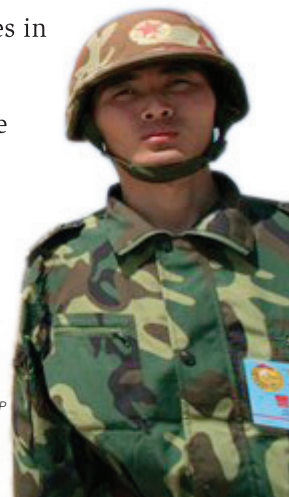
■ China and Russia conducted a joint military exercise "focused on combating the United States."

■ It did not rebuke a general who threatened use

of nuclear weapons against U.S. cities in the event of a U.S. intervention in a Taiwan-PRC war.

The PRC also continues a "massive campaign of industrial espionage intended to steal U.S. military and technological secrets."

Part of Boot's solution calls for encouraging China's neighbors to invest more in their own militaries and to explore more open defense commitments with one another.



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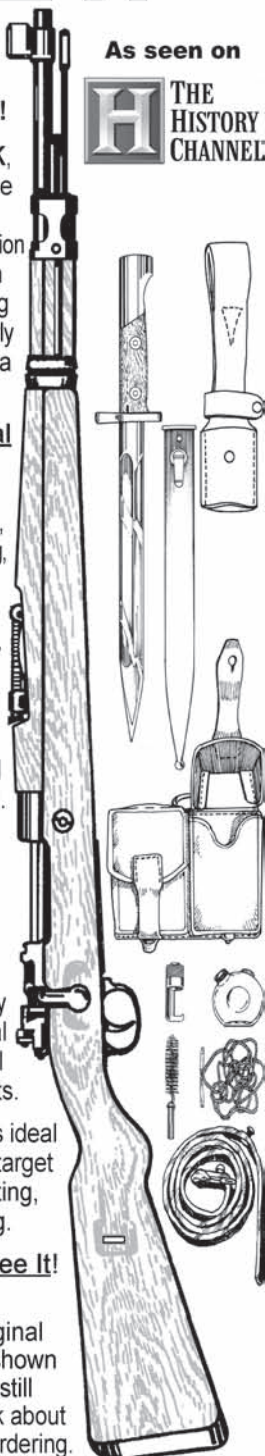
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Your own two feet

They often reveal clues to imminent health problems.

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

Anyone who served in the infantry has likely experienced “the agony of the feet” in the form of calluses or blisters. And almost all of us, at some point, have suffered sore feet due to ill-fitting shoes. But foot health involves more than minor aches and pains. Arthritis, heart disease, nerve disorders and other serious diseases may show up first in your feet. A stress fracture in the foot is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Poor circulation in the feet may warn of cardiovascular disease.

Even when they are not symptoms of larger medical issues, foot problems should not be overlooked. Abnormalities in your stride can lead to knee or back pain. Inability to walk because of heel spurs – painful protrusions of bone – can put you at risk for physical and psychological complications.

With proper care, our feet can transport us for many years. The average person will walk about 115,000 miles over a lifetime – enough to circle the globe four times.

Foot Health and Diabetes. About a quarter of people with diabetes develop foot problems. Diabetes often leads to peripheral neuropathy, which causes a loss of feeling in the feet. As a result, people with diabetes – especially those with ill-fitting shoes – may go unaware of cuts, blisters or sores on their feet. These wounds often don’t heal well because of poor blood flow in the feet – a result of another diabetes complication, peripheral vascular disease.

VA researchers are developing better ways to monitor and treat wounds and infections in the diabetic foot. One recent international study – led by a VA researcher in Seattle – showed that a relatively new antibiotic, linezolid, was effective for treating diabetic foot infections. The drug may help doctors treat infections caused by bacteria that are increasingly resistant to standard antibiotics.

The main goal is stopping diabetes-related foot problems before they start. Much of the answer lies in advancing diabetes treatment and improving patient education and self-care. Simple activities, such as daily washing of the feet and weekly toenail-trimming, can make a difference.

If you have diabetes, consult your doctor or diabetes educator to learn more about taking care of your feet.

Dr. Joel Kupersmith is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

How to have happy feet

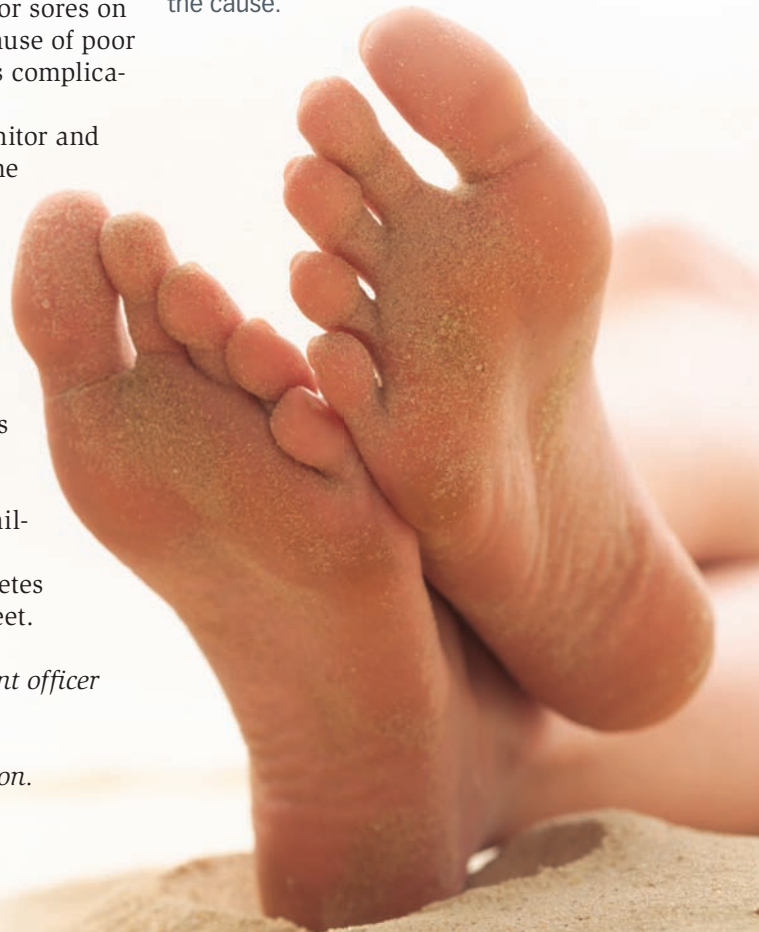
Wear proper shoes. Good shoes have soft, flexible leather uppers and thick soles to cushion your feet. Proper fit is paramount. Stores that specialize in walking shoes may have trained staff to help you choose the right pair. Be prepared to spend \$60 to \$90. Don’t pay more for stylish footwear that short-change you on support or cushioning.

Wear good socks. Cotton, wool or acrylic is best. Nylon may lead to excessive sweating and foot odor.

Exercise regularly. Walking helps maintain strength, flexibility and good circulation in feet. Stretching exercises that include your ankles and toes also help.

Eat nutritious food. A diet that promotes cardiovascular health will help ensure good circulation. Nutrients such as calcium and vitamin D are vital for the feet, which contain a quarter of the body’s 206 bones.

Consult a physician. Certain problems may require an orthopedic surgeon or dermatologist. Check with your doctor before treating corns and calluses yourself. Over-the-counter medications contain acids that destroy tissue but do not treat the cause.



Aging is Natural. Giving Up on Your Sexual Health Isn't!

**Bring Back the Best Years of Your Life!
Here's how one man did it!**

Dear Readers:

Although this would otherwise be an embarrassing subject – I feel strongly about sharing a recent experience with others my age.

Simply put ... *I'm 57 years old and even though I'm in overall good health, my body just doesn't respond sexually like it used to.*

Recently, I found myself struggling to "perform". I began losing my confidence and my sex drive with it. I was feeling a great deal of pressure and embarrassment and my wife was beginning to think it was something she did or didn't do – it wasn't.

I wasn't comfortable discussing my situation with anyone – not even my doctor – so in a desperate attempt to find some help, I privately did some research on the web.

First, I found that many HEALTHY men experience a decrease in stamina and performance with age. *I wasn't alone!* Good blood circulation is key to maintaining a strong erection and apparently there are a number of factors that can weaken it.

Armed with this new information, I began to search through the many "male enhancement" and potency products on the net. I found a pill for everything and anything but among the various pills and patches – *one product stood out – Maxoderm! Not a pill or a patch, this surprisingly effective topical formula is delivered directly to the "source", where I need it most.* I don't need to swallow a pill, prescription drug or not, or wear some kind of patch on my shoulder.

After trying Maxoderm just once, I could actually feel it working immediately! And it felt incredible! What a difference! I couldn't believe it – virility and stamina like I haven't felt in years! My driver's license says I'm 57 but thanks to Maxoderm, my wife says I'm 18 again! It felt great! I now know it's normal to experience some problems with sexual performance at our age but Maxoderm let me deal with it naturally. No pills – no patches – and even better – no embarrassing appointment with the doctor.

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Jim, S.
Miami, FL

P.S. Maxoderm actually offers a 90 Day RISK FREE Program. They will even give you the FIRST MONTH ABSOLUTELY FREE. So, do what I did – take the first step toward sexual health and call 1-800-297-0933 or visit www.maxoderm.com. With a 100% Money Back Guarantee you've got nothing to lose.

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**“My driver's
license says
I'm 57, but my
wife says I'm
18 again!”**



[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

Post 1233, Green Rock-Colona, Ill.: Post members helped families of deployed servicemen and women record holiday greetings on more than 70 DVDs and shipped them to the troops. The post plans to make the recordings an annual program.

Post 129, Queen Creek, Ariz.: Less than a year old, this post has one of the fastest-growing memberships in the nation. In order to get a temporary charter for the post, Commander Craig Barnes said 15 new members were needed. "We ended up with 25 at the first meeting," Barnes said. "This is our third month, and now we've got 100 members."

Post 1080, Joliet, Ill.: Local businesses and community members joined the post in Operation Care Packages, together collecting and assembling items to ship to military personnel in Iraq for the holidays. Funds also were raised to purchase international phone cards for troops. Items shipped included humanitarian aid items to be handed out by the troops to needy civilians. Local schoolchildren created holiday cards for the care packages.

Post 25, Clovis, N.M.: Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary and Legion Riders drove through local neighborhoods the second year in a row, delivering

Emblem Sales catalog loaded with new merchandise

The 2006 Emblem Sales catalog has more than 50 new items for members of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. Copies are available by calling toll-free (888) 453-4466. Most merchandise can be ordered 24 hours a day by logging on to www.emblem.legion.org.

Among the new items: "Support Our Troops" bracelets, Blue Star magnets, Legion Racing merchandise, Legion Riders accessories and fund-raising candy.



cardboard boxes filled with frozen turkeys, canned goods, pears and vegetables to needy families for Thanksgiving.

Auxiliary Unit 321, Cooper City, Fla.: Auxiliary members hosted a "Christmas in

November" fair to collect donations for shipment to U.S. troops at Tikrit, Najaf, Baghdad and other overseas locations. Organizers ended up with enough donated goods and money to send approximately 1,200 shoeboxes to Iraq.

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Merchandise sales fuel the Freedom Car

The 2006 NASCAR season is at the starting line, and The American Legion's "Freedom Car" is ready to roll. Legion family members are urged to support the Freedom Car's operating budget through the purchase of souvenir merchandise. The Legion provides no up-front money for its sponsorship with Team Johnson Motorsports, but members can support the car through merchandise purchases. New items this year include clocks, window stickers, license plates, sweatshirts and flags. They can be viewed at www.emblem.legion.org or ordered by calling (888) 453-4466. To order wholesale Post Pack merchandise (12 shirts, 12 caps, 12 lapel pins), order forms can be printed from the racing Web site at www.legionracing.org or by calling (704) 658-9988.



James V. Carroll

[VALUES]

'In the Founders' Footsteps'

New booklet guides Legion support for public expression of religion act.

The American Legion has produced a new booklet to build grass-roots support for H.R. 2679, the Public Expression of Religion Act. Authored by Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., the measure would

end the practice of awarding taxpayer-funded attorney fees to the American Civil Liberties Union in court cases involving the constitutionally protected expression of religion by state and local officials. The ACLU has brought suits against Boy Scouts of America and

against the public display of the Ten Commandments and other religious symbols, charging millions of dollars in attorney fees. PERA would withdraw from judges the authority to award such fees in these cases.

"The American Legion fully supports legislation introduced by Rep. Hostettler," said National Commander Thomas L. Bock. "It will remove the chilling effect on constitutionally

protected free expression of religion in public areas by ending court-ordered attorney fees, or damages, in establishment clause cases – but only those cases."

The booklet, "In the Founders' Footsteps: A Guide to Defending American Values," is available by contacting the Public Relations Division at pr@legion.org. It features information on the history of the issue, suggested press releases,

letters to the editor, op-ed articles, and a guide to educating and activating communities through internal post communications, media contacts and community relations. Key message points in the campaign also are listed.

Dubious damages

■ The City of San Diego agreed to pay the ACLU approximately \$940,000 in attorney fees to settle the ACLU's multi-year litigation to remove the Boy Scouts from Balboa Park.

■ The ACLU collected \$500,000 in attorney fees arguing the Ten Commandments case in Alabama.

■ The ACLU has collected at least \$63,000 from a lawsuit to destroy a cross placed in the Mojave Desert in honor of veterans.

[MEMBERSHIP]

Awards honor those who make membership a priority

The American Legion offers many awards for members, posts and districts dedicated to a vibrant and growing membership.

District Commander Race to the Top

The top district commander in each of five categories whose membership on March 31 represents the greatest percentage increase over the previous year's membership wins. Winning commanders and their spouses receive an all-expenses-paid trip for five days to see the Indianapolis 500. Second-place district commanders receive \$500 gift certificates. Third-place commanders receive \$375 certificates.

The Gold Brigade

A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more new members by the May target date will qualify for enrollment in the elite Gold Brigade. Special gifts are awarded to members of the Brigade, and the awards grow in value for those who qualify multiple times.

The Silver Brigade

Pins, patches and certificates of recognition are awarded to members to recruit 25 to 49 new Legionnaires by the May target date.

For more information, contact Membership at (317) 630-1327.

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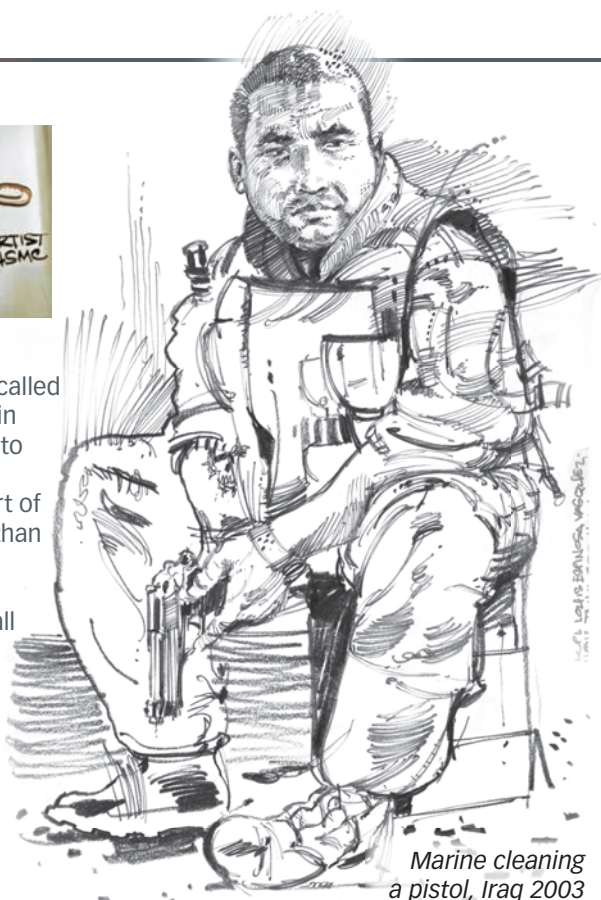
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[GALLERY]



The art of war

Marine Sgt. Jack Carrillo called his unique 2003 mission in Iraq "a dream come true to be able to tell the Marine Corps' story and be a part of something that's bigger than me." On his second day there, his Humvee overturned in a swamp, and all his painting supplies were ruined. He carried on with pencils, charcoal and sketch pads, building a stunning portfolio for which he was later honored with the prestigious Col. John W. Thomason Award.



Marine cleaning a pistol, Iraq 2003

[MEMORIAM]

Revered Legion mentor passes

Churchill Williams will be missed by Legionnaires at every level. But he isn't irreplaceable. That, National Finance Commission Chairman Ken Danilson says, was always Williams' plan.



"I think because of the way he mentored people, the hole he left behind already was filled before he died," said Danilson, who knew Williams more than 30 years. "He made it a point to have the hole filled when he left positions. He always had the right people in place."

Williams, a World War II bomber pilot and member of The American Legion for 61 years, passed away Nov. 15 at age 89. A member of Ross Reid Post 9 in Oelwein, Iowa, he was a mainstay on the National Finance Commission, serving as chairman of the commission from 1968 to 1985, vice chairman from 1963 to 1968 and as a member of the commission for five years prior.

Past National Commander John Geiger, an Illinois resident but Iowa native, also had a good working relationship with Williams. "He always seemed to be able to sit down and coach or help members of the commission and staff on an issue," Geiger said. "He trained many people, and he was a good, solid figurehead for integrity, both in his own department and on the national level."

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[PATRIOTISM]

National Anthem Project hits the road in 2006

The National Association For Music Education National Anthem Project Road Show is traveling across the United States in 2006.

The Road Show begins in January with the National Anthem Project truck visiting community programs, schools, sporting events and civic locations. At each tour stop, community members are invited to learn about the national anthem, find out how to support their local school music program and make music together.

A recent Harris poll found that two out of three American adults don't know all of the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" and that many don't even know the name of America's national anthem or why it was written.

The goal of the National Anthem Project is to teach 150 million Americans the history and meaning behind "The Star Spangled Banner" and to inspire them to stand and sing proudly whenever it is performed.

American Legion Resolution No. 26, passed during the 2004 Spring Meetings, established The American Legion's involvement with the MENC National Anthem Project.

Find out more about the National Anthem Project Road Show online.

www.tnap.org/index.html



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How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

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3rd Motor Trans Sqdn, Hutchinson, KS, 5/18-20, Art Henry, (620) 663-4717, henry7a@ourtownusa.net; **38th Bomb Wing (France)**, Covington, KY, 6/1-3, J. Black, (813) 909-7185, jblack16@tampabay.rr.com; **343rd Strat Recon Sqdn (Topeka, KS, 1950-1970)**, Wichita, KS, 5/10-12, Paul F. Dolby, (260) 356-1761, paul68n@netscape.net; **556th Recon Sqdn**, Las Vegas, 4/18-21, Buck Buchanan, (707) 446-2825, phantomb2@aol.com

794th AC&W (Cape Newenham, AK), Branson, MO, 6/21-25, Victoria Anderson, (800) 877-8687, victoria@bransonfun.com; **6091st Recon Sqdn**, Las Vegas, 4/18-21, Buck Buchanan, (707) 446-2825, phantomb2@aol.com; **6989th, 6921st, 6920th Sec Serv (Misawa, Japan)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 6/22-25, Helen Henderson, (904) 829-9235, etaya@aig.com

C-7A Caribou Assn, Pigeon Forge, TN, 4/9-12, Bill Avon, (330) 878-7451, veteran1@tusco.net; **Pilot Class 43-D (All Cmds)**, Burlington, VT, 5/31-6/3, Frank Dutko, (850) 932-3467, duke43d@hotmail.com; **Pilot Tng Class 50-Q Nav 09**, San Antonio, 6/24-28, Ned Derhammer, (765) 463-4988, ned3nola@gte.net

ARMY

9th Inf Div (Vietnam), Indianapolis, 5/2-4, Roy Moseman, (706) 549-0749, rmoseman@charter.net; **27th FA Rgt Assn**, Fayetteville, NC, 6/9-11, James R. Suessmann, (973) 357-0033, jrs.cpa@verizon.net; **73rd Tank Bn 73rd Armor**, Santa Maria, CA, 4/10-14, Curtis Banker, (518) 643-2302, dmbanker-curtis@northnet.org; **82nd Abn Div Assn**, Orlando, FL, 8/7-14, Ken Glynn, (863) 682-3382

84th & 62nd Eng, Canton, OH, 5/15-19, Bob Donatini, (330) 492-1597, dbobdoreen@sssnet.com; **134th Assault Heli Co**, St. Louis, 6/1-4, Jim Cowan, (765) 344-0653, jimcowan118@yahoo.com; **304th Sig Op**

Bn (All Years), Branson, MO, 6/13-15, Victor J. Stamos, (612) 724-1180; **540th TC Co (Quinhon, Vietnam, 1965-1972)**, Tampa, FL, Fall, Wayne Gallant, (813) 925-8421, wgallant@earthlink.net; **564th MP 586th QM Corp (Tokyo, Japan, 1954-1957)**, Vince Tripodi, August, (740) 264-5208, bocenz@aol.com; **702nd Tank Dest Bn (WWII)**, Nashville, TN, 6/9-11, Mike Leumer, (866) 777-8383, t.d.blasting@verizon.net; **707th AAA Gun Bn (1950-1953)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/9-12, M.T. Sanford, 3087 Mensi St., Memphis, TN 38127, poppy21stcentury@aol.com

Delta Co 1/20th Bn 11th LIB, Bowling Green, KY, 4/27-30, Wendell Strode, (270) 781-7973, strode@corvettemuseum.com; **Delta Co 2nd Bn 8th Cav Abn 1st Cav Div Airmobile (Vietnam)**, Orlando, FL, 5/18-21, Richard M. O'Brien, (630) 941-8727, richardobrien@msn.com; **F Trp 8th Cav "Blue Ghost"**, San Antonio, 3/31-4/2, Paul L. Reitchel, (207) 626-0354; **L Co 35th Inf 25th Div (Korea)**, Bismarck, ND, 6/7-10, Victor Gibbins; **MARS TF Arty 612th & 613th FA (Burma, WWII)**, Salt Lake City, 9/14-17, Orland Crandall, (435) 783-5231

JOINT

Anzio Beachhead Veterans (WWII), Fayetteville, NC, 4/19-22, John Boller, (631) 691-5002, juniorglb@msn.com; **Carolinas LST Chpt**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/30-5/2, C. C. Benton, (843) 449-7914; **Vets of All Three Wars (WWII, Korea & Vietnam)**, Las Vegas, May, Frank Durbin, (650) 712-0967, all3wars@webtv.net

MARINES

Raider Roundup, Reno, NV, 5/2-3, Archie B. Rackerby, (530) 273-4220

NAVY

128th Seabees, Branson, MO, 6/15-17, Harvey Smith, (913) 236-5837, candosmith2000@yahoo.com; **133rd Seabees**, Gulfport, MS, Fall, W. Dennis Ruocco, (910) 842-1341, wdrdennis@earthlink.net; **Abnaki ATF 96**, San Antonio, 8/23-27, Pete Kingsley, (515) 276-7250, p.kingsley@att.net;

Arcadia AD 23, Chicago, 5/4-7, Andrew Malone, (516) 681-0725, arcd23@yahoo.com; **Atka AGB 3 "Icebreaker"**, Baltimore, 4/27-29, Henry G. Giles, (734) 591-3068; **Benewah APB 35**, Indianapolis, 5/4-6, Richard Jackal, (517) 293-3084, rjackal@optonline.net; **Betelgeuse AK 260**, Charleston, SC, 4/20-23, Arthur L. Miller, (843) 797-7727; **Cadmus AR 14**, Chicago, 5/4-7, Robert Baschmann, (716) 655-5415, dinamlrs@aol.com

Carpenter DD 825, Washington, 5/4-8, Jimmie Kennedy, (714) 776-4019, kennjd3@sbcglobal.net; **Colleton APB 36**, Indianapolis, 5/4-6, Richard Jackal, (517) 293-3084, rjackal@optonline.net; **Diphda AKA59**, Louisville, KY, 5/24-28, Judy Coogan, (734) 675-0148, judycoo@hotmail.com; **Effingham APA 165**, Norfolk, VA, 4/26-30, Wayne H. Peterson, (612) 822-1437

Eunice PCE 846, Savannah, GA, 4/20-23, Harry Kalbach, (641) 524-2811, hkalbach@netins.net; **Floyds Bay AVP 40**, Benton, AR, 5/17, Gene Cagle, (501) 315-2917, sandyinar@aol.com; **Franklin D. Roosevelt CVB/CVA/CV 42 Air Wing**, Norfolk, VA, 5/14-21, Raymond Hough, (361) 992-0224; **George E. Davis DE 357**, St. Louis, Fall, Rod Hoffmaster, (610) 926-4590, ussgeorgeedavis@yahoo.com

Hamlin AV 15, Chattanooga, TN, 6/15-17, Lawrence C. Godwin, 226 S.R. 18, New Wilmington, PA 16142, (724) 652-4880; **Henley DD 762**, Charleston, SC, 5/7-10, Richard Le Blanc, (760) 369-0453, jadikjt@webtv.net; **Huntington CL 107**, Savannah, GA, Fall, Gene Volcik, (512) 926-7008, evolicik@aol.com; **John A. Bole DD 755**, Corpus Christi, TX, 4/30-5/3, Mike Springer, (715) 536-1526, mikelorrie755@msn.com

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Noa DD 841/343/APO 24, San Antonio, 5/4-7, Wilma Bennett Rascoe, (386) 228-3366; **North Carolina Battleship Assn**, Wilmington, NC, 4/26-29, Gordon Knapp, (315) 839-5482, knappga@msn.com; **Nueces APB 40**, Indianapolis, 5/4-6, Richard Jackal, (517) 293-3084, rjackal@optonline.net; **Ommaney Bay CVE 79**, Appleton, WI, 6/13-17, Richard D. Whisner, (951) 658-0873

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Raleigh LPD 1, Saint Simon's Island, GA, 6/29-7/2, Steve Southard, (912) 294-0046, raleighreunion@bellsouth.net; **Redpoll AMS/MSCO 57**, Fort Myers, FL, 3/8-10, Walt Jablonski, (248) 851-3390, jabo867@aol.com; **Rendova CVE 114**, Silverdale, WA, 4/26-29, Eddie Frank, (303) 857-4248, redova114@aol.com; **Richard L. Page DEG/FFG 5**, Virginia Beach, VA, 4/28-30, Jay Gill, (757) 479-0304

Roanoke CL 145, Nashville, TN, 4/19-23, Tom Carter, (407) 767-9075, tomtinac@cfl.rr.com; **Salem CA 139**, Orlando, FL, 4/21-23, Bob Daniels, (352) 315-1397; **San Pablo AVP/AGS 30**, Seattle, 5/4-7, Stuart Norris, (585) 223-2713, stuenormus@msn.com; **Small Boat Reunion Yard Freight Utility/Landing Craft Utility/Yard Oiler Gasoline (Da Nang, Vietnam)**, Indianapolis, 5/2-4, Tom Lanagan, (804) 748-9155, tc49@verizon.net

Steinaker DDR/DD 863, San Antonio, 5/4-7, Bill Combs, (757) 416-1983, combs27@cox.net; **VC-6**, Washington, 5/4-8, Laurence Adams, (301) 983-4046, adams1921@msn.com; **VC-7 (1949-1956)**, Washington, 5/5-8, Joe D'Ambrosio, (916) 689-6924, dambrosio@softcom.net

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1st Bn 33rd Armd 3rd Armd Div All Cos (Gelnhausen, Germany), Jack Grant, (765) 643-8226, jjgrant@webtv.net
1st Cav Div HQ Btry 19th Arty (Camp Pelham, Sonyaree, Korea, 1961-1962), Clarence A. Johnston, (904) 783-2548, sirgadabout@gmail.com
2nd Air Postal Sqdn (Wiesbaden, Germany & Toul Rosiere AB, 1950-1953), Elmer Reichert, (813) 655-5351, ereich04@yahoo.com
2nd Dental Co 2nd Mar Div FMF (Camp Lejeune, NC, 1956-1959), Bill Jacobson, (319) 393-5443, wwsjacobson@aol.com
8th Air Serv Sqdn 5th AF (Charleyville/Moratai, 1942-1945), Glenn Oliver, (864) 489-9093
9th Inf 1097th "Mike" Boat (Mekong Delta, Vietnam, 1968-1969), Harry A. Simpson, (314) 731-2388, thesimpson3@sbcglobal.net
11th Ord Co DAS (1955-1961), Lonas Kralik, (951) 679-3911, mslonas@verizon.net
92nd AAA Bn 32nd Bde (Brize Norton, England, 1953-1955), Tom McVey, (815) 937-4050
128th Plt (Parris Island, Mar-June 1958), Charles Lubanski, (732) 264-7202, bonnevillechaz@aol.com
204th Mil Intel Det (Phu Bai & Da Nang, Vietnam, 1969-1970), Mike Cherrington, (432) 699-0202, m_dtxas@cox.net
291st Army Band (Camp Otsu, Japan, 1954-1955), Robert D. Myers, (317) 784-6841
572nd Light Equip Co (Tuy Hoa, Vung Ranh Bay, Vietnam, 1966-1967), LeRoy Musland, (701) 396-7801, dmusland@drtel.net
577th Strat Msl Sqdn (Altus AFB, OK, 1961-1963), Jim Smotherman, (205) 823-2633, brownjgust@aol.com
705th Eng Dist (Italy, Dec 1944-Aug 1946), Jake Wolski, (317) 714-2190, jwolski@skilandscape.com
782nd TCS (Evereau, France, 1955-1957), Duane E. Goodhart, (717) 532-4906, dghart@innet.net
6925th Radio Sqdn Mobile C-Flt (Clark AFB, Philippines, 1963), R. Bucher, 315 Stokesay Ave., Ludlow, KY 41016
A Co 2nd Bn 12th Inf 4th & 25th Inf Div (Dec 1965-Dec 1967, Vietnam), Pete Cullen, (973) 471-4436, ocullenpete@yahoo.com
B Co 24th S&T Bn (Augsburg, Germany, 1966-1970), Robert Hines, (781) 828-8099
Base Fire Dept (Wiesbaden AFB, Germany, 1969-1973), Andre Greene, (718) 828-5602
Beach Master Unit 2 Bravo Co 2 (1985-1988), Little Creek, VA, Roger Bush, (717) 426-1749, swaa88@netzero.com
C Btry 6th Bn 32nd FA (Vietnam, Aug 1970-Aug 1971), James E. Dahl, (406) 265-9050, jdahl@onewest.net
C Co 1/14th Inf 25th Inf Div (1980-1983), Jim Fleming, (941) 429-1227, jimmy817@earthlink.net
Co 91 (Great Lakes, IL, 1950), Allan Barr, (860) 529-6550
Det 5 9th Air Postal Sqdn (Da

Nang AB, Vietnam, 1965-1966), Jerry Fulwood, (910) 763-1613, fulwoodj@earthlink.net
Howitzer Btry 3rd Recon Sqdn 150th Armd Cav WV Nat'l Guard, (Fort Meade, Camp Pickett, 1961-1962), Bill McKinney, oldbill43@aol.com
HQ Co 127th Eng Bn 11th Air Assault Div (Fort Benning, GA, 1963-1964), Shirley Blackwell, (620) 947-3909, shirley_minns@yahoo.com
HQ Det 39th Trans Bn (Truck) (Fort Benning, GA, Dec 1965-July 1966 & Vietnam, July 1966-July 1967), Fred Plese, (763) 566-5418, fjp@usfamily.net
K-9 Unit (Nouasseur AB, French Morocco, 1961-1963), Jerry Wood, (916) 457-1231
LSM 304 (1945-1946), Lou Wit, (810) 987-3045, pappalouie@comcast.net
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Oahu ARG 5 (1944-1946), David Smith, (203) 421-0978
OCS Class 23 (Fort Riley, KS, 1950), Eduardo M. Javelosa, 2908 Cabo Villano Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
Oriskany CVA 34 (1950-1953), Allan Barr, (860) 529-6550
Radio Receiver Site (Lago Patria, AF South Naples, Italy, 1957-1959), Jim Collins, (401) 737-0384, reachjim_419@msn.com
Sperry AS 12, S-6 Div (San Diego, 1967-1969), Bill Turner, (305) 986-1931, tetat@bellsouth.net
Tattnall DDG 19 (Dec 1965-Dec 1968), Dick Harmon, dharmonlpga1@aol.com

TAPS

Merwyn M. Beavers, Dept. of France. Dept. Cmdr. 1978-1980, Alt. Nat'l Exec Cmte. Memb. 1980-1982 and 1993-1994, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1988-1992 and 1994-2004, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1988-1992 and 1994-1996, Nat'l Internal Affairs Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1996-1997 and 1998-1999, and Nat'l Econ. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1997-1998 and 1999-2004.
William A. Egan Jr., Dept. of New York. Dept. Cmdr. 1965-1966, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967 and Nat'l Aerospace Cmte. Memb. 1966-1972.
Allen Ehrlich, Dept. of New York. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1973-1974, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Memb. 1974-1976, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1984-1985 and 1990-1991, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1984-1996 and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Chmn. 1991-1992.
William H. Emanuel, Dept. of Wisconsin. Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte Memb. 1964-1965, Dept. Cmdr. 1966-1967, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1968-1970, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1968-1969, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1970-1981, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1980-1981

and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte Memb. 1981-1984.

Robert C. Fuller, Dept. of New York.

Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1956-1957, Dept. Cmdr. 1959-1960, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1959-1980 and Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1960-1961.

Wayne R. Husk, Dept. of Oregon. Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1980-1982 and Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1986-1988.

Churchill T. Williams, Dept. of Iowa.

Dept. Cmdr. 1955-1956, Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Chmn. 1956-1957, Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Vice Chmn. 1957-1958, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Memb. 1958-1963, Nat'l Inter-Americanism Cmte. Memb. 1960-1961, Nat'l American Legion Endowment Fund Corp Memb. 1962-2002, Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to the Nat'l Cmdr. Memb. 1963-1987, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Vice Chmn 1963-1968, Nat'l 50th Anniv. Cmte. Ex-Officio Memb. 1966-1969, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Chmn. 1968-1985, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Memb. 1968-1979, Nat'l Spirit of '76 Cmte. Consultant 1970-1976, Nat'l American Legion Endowment Fund Corp Director 1984-2002, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1989-1990, 1993-1994, 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1989-2004, and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2004-2005.

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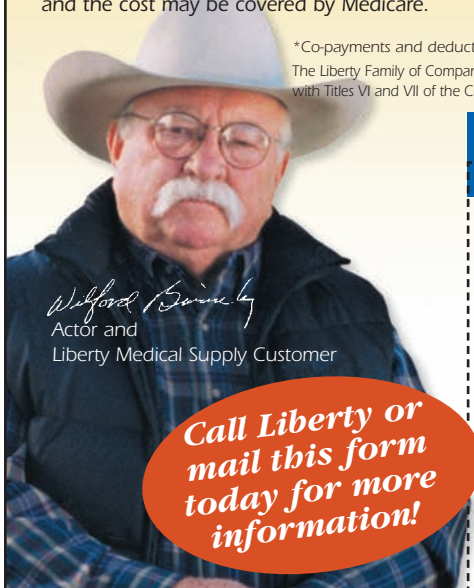
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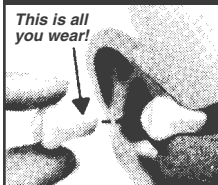
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parting shots

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

A GAME WARDEN stopped a deer hunter and asked to see his hunting license. "This is last year's," the warden informed him after inspecting it.

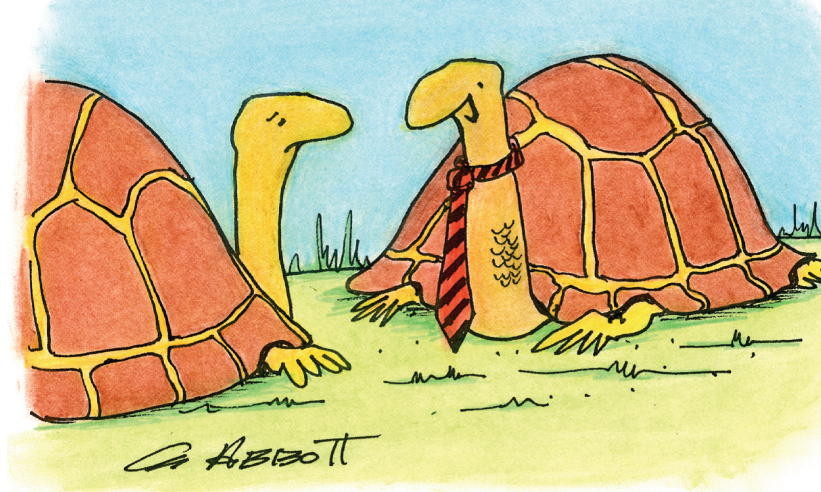
"I know," the hunter replied. "But I shouldn't need a new license. I'm just shooting at the deer I missed last year."

AN OLD SAILOR and an old Marine argued about who'd had the tougher career. "I did 30 years in the Corps," the Marine declared proudly, "and fought in three of my country's wars. Fresh out of boot camp, I hit the beach at Okinawa, clawed my way up the blood-soaked sand and eventually took out an entire enemy machine-gun nest with a single grenade.

"As a sergeant, I fought in Korea. We pushed back the enemy inch by bloody inch all the way up to the Chinese border, always under a barrage of artillery and small-arms fire.

"Finally, as a gunny sergeant, I did three combat tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razorgrass 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and mosquitoes, ducking under sniper fire all day and mortar fire all night. In a firefight, we shot until our arms ached and our guns were empty. Then we charged the enemy with bayonets!"

"Ah," the sailor said with a dismissive wave of his hand. "All shore duty, huh?"



"Like it? It's the peopleneck look."



"Does this mean you won't be coming in on Monday?"

A PASSENGER JET was traveling through a severe thunderstorm. As everyone onboard did their best to ignore the turbulence, a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and with a nervous laugh asked, "Reverend, you're a man of God. Can't you do something about this storm?"

The minister replied, "Lady, I'm in sales, not management."

A LITTLE GIRL accompanied her father to the post office. She immediately noticed the "Wanted" posters pinned to the wall and asked her father about them.

"Those are pictures of people the police would like to catch," her father explained.

"But Daddy," the little girl said, "if the police wanted to catch them, why didn't they hold onto them when they took their pictures?"



"I'm looking for my husband. Which floor are the nudes on?"



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